Boston Medical Library
in the Francis A. Countway
Library of Medicine ~ *Boston*

THE

MEDICAL ENQUIRER,

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY

AT

Fall River and Middleboro', Mass.

EDITED BY

J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A.M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

FALL RIVER:
ALMY & MILNE, PRINTERS, WEEKLY NEWS OFFICE,
1846-7.

36768 Hist

INDEX.

	Pages.
A	
Advertising, &c.,	6
A Fact,	57
Arsenic,	71–137
An Interesting Fact,	73
Anecdote,	86
A Question,	90
A Monstrous Woman,	95
Abuse of the Eyes,	109
Acuteness of Vision,	135
A Good Joke,	143
Ancient Baths,	156
Alcohol,	163
B	
Bathing,	4–12–135–143
Bleeding at the Nose,	7
Brocchieri Water Tested,	31
B. M. College, Cincinnati,	70–118–165
Blood-Letting,	85–101–142
Bleeding and Calomel,	140
Benefits of Laughter,	150
Bald Heads,	166
C	
Characteristics of a Medical Journal,	2
Cure for Cancer,	31
Can any thing good, &c.,	37
Cold Bathing,	41–51
Cure for Drunkenness,	43–59
Calomel,	49
Cold Bathing Dangerous,	50
Communications,	50–74–146–167
Correction,	67
Cold Water Song,	94
Croup,	113
Case of Miss Clary D.,	116
Cold Water and Warm Flannels,	
Curative Power of Lobelia,	158
Can the Measles be had Twice?	170
Cayenne,	180
D	
Danger of Lobelia,	15
Dr. Bigelow and Lobelia,	30
Dislocation,	38
Dreadful Neglect,	62
Death of Benjamin Waterhouse,	81
Death of Lord Byron,	84
Damages for neglect of treatment,	103
Death by Poison,	106
Dr. Thomson,	115
Death of Dr. Hitchcock,	165
Dialogue on Blood-Letting,	171
Death from Drinking Poison,	182
E	
Extract from a Converted Regular,	29
Extract from Dr. Concle,	39
Extracts,	69-71-77-110-111-127-130-166
Enjoyment, by O. S. Fowler,	78
Experience,	99
Effects of Mercury,	127
F	
Forming a Lip,	35
Food and Digestion,	36
Flogging a Botanic,	
Facts,	89
Feather Beds,	95
Frying, as a mode of Cooking,	110
Facts for the People,	74
G	
Galvanic Rings,	130
Growth of the Beard,	138
H	
Hemorrhage,	75
Health,	143
Homœpathy,	169
I	
Importance of Truth,	7
Improvement in Medical Science,	15
Ill Nature,	39
Interesting Cases,	46–63
Is it Right?	53
Influence of Gold,	87
Illustrations of Quackery,	92
Iron Beds,	125
Intoxicating Liquors,	135
Indian Cure for Fever,	140
Interesting Incident,	146
Improving,	169
Interesting Surgical Case,	174

INDEX.

	Pages.
Is there an end to human calamity?	183
J	
John Randolph's Opinion,	30
J. M. Wieting, M. D.,	33
Jaundice,	53
L	
Lobelia a Poison,	18
London Porter,	43
Lobelia—Its Operation,	60
Lobelia—Quackery,	76
Leeches,	83
Laboring too much,	100
Lacteal Metastasis,	149
Lobelia Wont Kill,	175
M	
Mumps,	14
Morning Air,	39
Musquitoe Bites,	39–75
Mercury,	45
Medical Science,	65–105
Medical Reform,	78
Muscular Strength,	91
Mutton,	102
Measles,	146
Manslaughter, if not Murder,	123
Murder,	153–186
Milk for the People,	181
Mesmerism,	182
N	
N. Y. Dissector,	9
National Beauty,	134
O	
Old Times in Medicine,	6
Opium,	47–107–145
Opinions of the Learned,	54
Opium and Mercury,	132
Observe,	154
P	
Poison a Medicine,	14
Pierce Academy,	42
Poisons Deleterious to Health,	44
Poisoning,	67
Poisons Condemned,	108
Philosophical Apparatus,	123
Physic and Infancy,	151
Poisons not Medicines,	155
Postage,	185
Q	
Quackery,	5–165
R	
Rules on Health,	3–13–20–35–83
Recipes,	5–102–135
Reports of Cases,	21–66–170–162–159
Reform,	48
Remedy for Sprains,	102
Rules for Preserving Eye Sight,	118
Remote Consequences,	177
S	
Scarlatina,	11
Salt Water Bath,	35
Shower Bath,	55
Surgical Operation,	63–86
Singular and Distressing Affliction,	70
Still Born Children,	99
Strong Pills,	102
Sulphuric Ether,	133–150
Sixteen Days Later from Europe,	75
Surgery and Mesmerism,	141
Salivation by Gold Plates, Still Another,	178
T	
To the Reader,	1
The Reformed System,	6
The Thomsonian Practice,	15
Tobacco,	23
To the Public,	27
Tipplers, Attention!	47
Treatment of Pleurisy,	68
True Pleasure Defined,	70
The Chinese Doctors,	91
Tartar Emetic,	93
The Hottest,	94
The Lancet,	95
The Reformed Practice,	97
Teeth Extracted without Pain,	121
The Journal of Health,	122
The Life Clock,	126
Tea and Coffee,	131
The Air We Breathe,	150
Thomsonism,	161
Treatment of Children,	173
To our Readers,	185
U	
Undeniable Truths,	26
Use of Opium,	71
V	
Vaccination,	10
Vapor Baths,	17–22–25–55
Very Remarkable,	87
Vitiated Air in Apartments,	138
W	
Water Dressings in Sugar,	100
Water Cure Journal,	103
Water Cure in Pregnancy, &c.,	119
Wrinkles,	126
Worcester B. M. College,	164
Water,	165

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, MAY 15, 1846. NO. I.

To the Reader.

The importance of the subjects we propose to discuss cannot be doubted by any rational mind, and the great question—what is truth on the grave subject of the preservation of life and health should be answered with something more substantial than mere empty speculation or ingenious hypothesis. We are not among those who place implicit reliance in the wisdom of the past or believe in the perfection of the present—but while we find much in bygone days to be imitated and much more to be shunned, we are not to be deterred from adopting the truths which the present unfolds merely because they are new or do not happen to be classed among the popular *isms* of the day. That the "Science of Medicine has groaned under the weight of hypothesis piled on hypothesis" is the almost universal exclamation of its most intelligent votaries, and we make no apology for leaving this rubbish of medical speculation for that better way which we in all sincerity believe it has been our fortune to have been made acquainted with.

Our efforts to disseminate the opinions we hold with regard to the preservation of life and health, will we hope, be cordially received by all who desire the advancement of Medical reform, and even the honest opposer cannot complain, so long as we offer him an opportunity to present to our readers what he believes to be the truth in opposition to our supposed errors.

We will advocate no principles or system of practice which the honest and sincere person who believes them to have an injurious tendency cannot have an opportunity to refute and expose. That the prejudiced, the bigoted and those who believe that nothing valuable can be discovered appertaining to Medical Science except by those who profess to be its only legitimate expounders, that these should find nothing worthy their attention, however correct and philosophical our system may be, is of course to be expected. But even prejudice itself has often given way to an honest spirit of enquiry, converting the ignorant opposer into the intelligent advocate of Medical reform. Perhaps as a general rule those are the most averse to the system we advocate who are the most ignorant of its principles and mode of operation, and we doubt not that many of our more intelligent opposing physicians have often smiled at the ignorance of some earnest opponent, as he has expatiated on the dangerous consequences of the Reformed practice, knowing as he does that his fears are groundless and his zeal not according to knowledge.

All we ask is a candid examination of the Reformed System—its efficacy in the removal of disease—its ultimate effects upon the human system, &c., —and we have no fears of the result. A.

Characteristics of a Medical Journal.

1st. Punctuality in its being published and delivered.

2d. Its editorial should be free from prejudice, which is the greatest objection which can be brought against the Medical publications of our country.

3d. Fearlessness in declaring what its editors suppose to be the truth.

4th. All writers should have free access to its columns, provided their communications are upon proper subjects, and are properly written.

Almost all our Medical journals are closed against certain writers and against the advocacy of certain doctrines in Medical Science.

How often do we see and hear that "error can do no harm, so long as truth is free to combat it." And yet upon so important a subject as the preservation and regaining of health certain journals say, "so far shalt thou go, and no farther" in these discussions. *They* are the final judges of what is right and proper for the people to read. What would be said of any *other* scientific journal that should adopt such a course? *We* say the people are to read what they please and are to be the judges of what is true and what is false, in this as well as in every other science.—*We* say that too much has been already done, to keep all knowledge from them. Prescriptions have been written in an unknown language,—names of diseases have also been given in a dead tongue,—apothecaries' drugs are concealed under strange names,—and all of this *has an effect*—it is only a *part* of a *great system*. Why should this be so in *Medicine* when no one would *dare* to do it in any *other* science! Every journal of Medicine should be open to all and disseminate as much information as possible. It should also allow all theories full advocacy, whether the editors of said journals agree with the advocates of such theories or not. It is alone by the free action of thought, that the truth upon any subject can be elicited.

5th. All technicalities should be excluded or defined. One of the greatest obstacles to the acquisition of Medical truth, by people generally, is the style in which all Medical works are written. This in a great measure in Medical works cannot be avoided, if we would have accuracy and definiteness of language, But in a jouraal or books for common circulation this ought not so to be. The text books in every science or profession are necessarily full of the technicalities, common to that science or profession; but when a treatise or publication is put forth for the avowed purpose of common or general perusal, such technicalities as far as possible ought to be avoided.

6th. All statements of facts should be well guarded and fortified. In the communications of correspondents of course the editors are not *directly* responsible for the statements of facts that may be put forth; should there be any statements *known* by the editors to be false then the responsibility would be different. But generally, correspondents will be held responsible for the truth of all statements they may make. But when statements are put forth *editorially*, the reputation of the journal itself for veracity, is at stake, and the editors themselves should see to it that all statements of

facts can be supported by undeniable proof. Such are some of the principles upon which we suppose a Medical journal ought to be conducted.—And so far as our knowledge extends, journals *out of* the United States are conducted upon these principles. Truth is earnestly sought for from every source, no matter how humble or lofty, and when found is seized upon with avidity. Strange and no more strange than mortifying that in our own country, there should be less of real liberty of the press, than in those who never boasted of their freedom.

We do not say that this journal shall in all things conform to these principles; but that we shall *endeavor* to be governed by them. We are all liable to err, and we certainly would not exempt *ourselves* from that liability. But so far as honesty of purpose and consistency of effort can accomplish, this journal shall be the advocate of what we believe to be a true system of Medical practice. W.

Rules:

The observance of which, we believe, will be conducive to health.

1st. Early Rising.—All writers unite in saying that one of the surest means of retaining health, is to leave the bed early. There is no question but what late rising has a direct tendency to weaken the nervous system.—And there is no necessity for our naming to our readers, the manifold evils resulting from *weak nerves*. They may very properly be called "*legion.*"

Many persons have accustomed themselves to this indulgence until they can rarely if ever, get any sleep until after the hour when "witches walk forth" the dread hour of midnight. And they frequently excuse the habit by saying, that if they cannot sleep the first part of the night, it is necessary they should the *last*. This is very much like starving a person, giving as a reason for a continuance of the wrong, that as he has become so weak, he cannot bear food. Let such persons rise with the lark, every morning for one week, and they will, we venture the assertion—before the week is out, be able to sleep as early in the night, as any one, unless positively out of health in other respects. And this is not all. That dead, cadaverous appearance of the countenance will be succeeded by a freshness that is a stranger to those of the opposite habit. The nervous system will be strengthened—there will be a total flight of the vapors or blues—and the current of life will rush on with fresh vigor, carrying a youthful sprightliness and healthful tone through the whole system. Let but one of these late risers go forth to meet the rising king of day, as "he rejoices in the east"—breathe the refreshing air of morn—hear the cheerful "morning call" of the "feathered songsters," and unless we are most egregiously mistaken, they will not soon forget its exhilarating effects.

2d. Diet.—We are not of that number who think a person should be starved, nor among those who think a person should be kept like a turkey prepared for the spit. We entreat our readers to eat lightly for the last meal of the day—for the first let the quantity be increased, and for the dinner let it be a *real bone fide* meal. Many persons sit to the table more for show and to see how *delicate* they can appear than for the purpose of sup-

plying the system with nourishment. Their delicate, taper thumb and finger, will convey to their very small mouth a very *small* quantity of something—we cannot call it food—there is not enough to deserve the appellation—the jaws will move about as fast as a snail's pace, and to about as much purpose. This must be washed down by the smallest, possible, quantity of tea, and the meal is through. Many times Mother Nature rebels against this foolish, unnatural custom, and dyspepsia comes with its long train of sorrows and pains. The stomach by being kept in an empty condition loses its elasticity, the system its strength, and of course the digestive organs suffer also, and the poor sufferer is doomed to endure untold evils.—In a future number we shall pursue the subject still farther, with that freedom and earnestness which its importance demands. W.

Bathing.

When we realize the important office which the skin fulfils, aside from its being a covering for the body, the amount of matter thrown out daily through its pores, and its intimate sympathetic connexion with the internal surfaces, we cannot fail to see, that its unembarrassed action is highly necessary in preserving and regaining health. All experiments from the time of Sanctorius to the present, prove, that the skin is one great medium through which the impurities of the system are thrown off, and as this elimination is indispensable to the preservation of health, the importance of a healthy action of the skin becomes obvious and undeniable.—All accumulations upon the surface, whether from its own secretions or otherwise, prevent the free transpiration of the morbific matter, which not finding a way of escape through the skin, is carried back into the circulation to be *partly* thrown off by the undue exertions of the internal organs, and thus, by destroying the balance of circulation, and retaining impurities in the system, lays the foundation for disease in some of its various forms.

Whatever may be the quantity of food taken during the day by a healthy person, his weight will be nearly the same at the end of twenty four hours—provided he is not growing in stature or corpulency, the nutriment thus taken in, being required to supply the place of worn out particles. Both the solids and fluids are constantly undergoing this renovating process, so that the insensible perspiration does not consist of water only, but also of animal matter, acid, &c. "Indeed as the pores of the skin are the grand outlets, both for the exhausted particles of worn out animal matter, and the refuse parts of the blood, it is obvious that in the perspiration may be found every element that is known to enter the composi-

tion of the human system." The impurities thus collecting on the surface, should be of itself, a sufficient inducement for frequent bathing, even if it was not conducive to health, the operation being as essential to cleanliness, as for continuing the equal balance of the circulation. A.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Slippery Elm and Milk.

Beat a teaspoonful of powdered elm into a paste with water, adding a small portion of salt, and stir it into a pint of milk just beginning to boil. Take the milk from the fire, and continue the stirring for two or three minutes, until the elm is dissolved.

This is very useful for diarrhœa and the bowel complaints of children. It is good for infants; but, if very young, the milk should be diluted with water.

Quackery—An Extract.

No history is more ludicrous, than that of a young medical man forcing his way into notice and distinction, and gradually emerging from the obscurity in which his professional *debut* was shrouded. "A horse and sulkey are indispensable ingredients to a physician's prosperity; and the manner in which he drives his vehicle, and at the same time, his business, is highly edifying and amusing.—Morning, noon and night, he is on the move, and is quite an ubiquious character; indefatigable and bustling, with an appearance of intense anxiety on his brow: he generally times his movements, in such a manner as to encounter a procession or public assemblage in his rapid course, and elicit the observation, "there goes Dr. ——, to a patient,—how busy he always is! I wonder who is taken ill? He never fails to pass the church at full speed when the congregation is issuing therefrom: and when he enters the sacred edifice, on a devotional errand, there is very little doubt that his servant will creep stealthily along the isle, to his pew,—whisper something into his ear,—which will have the effect of disturbing him in the middle of his prayers, and compel him to leave the church. Presently will be heard the sound of the wheels of an eager and impatient traveller, and the occurrence of sickness and casuality will be clearly intimated. Should a prying and curious scrutinizer, however, follow the doctor, in his eager haste, he would probably discover, that when at a convenient distance from town, the speed of the horse would be checked, and after riding some four or five miles, a retrogade movement would ensue, and a return to the starting-place be determined upon. He goes on a journey to *bleed mile stones*, and to play upon the gullibility of the multitude."—*New York Mirror.*

The Reformed System.

To a person who has always received the impression that the Reformed Practice admits of nothing like a rational explanation, that there can be no intelligent adaptation of means to effect a particular purpose, but that it blindly pursues the same undeviating course in every form of disease—to such a person the idea of there being any thing like a system which will admit of even a slight examination, must appear novel and absurd. But we shall endeavor in the future numbers of the Enquirer to give undisputed evidence that the Reformed Practice is not so unphilosophical, as many suppose, that it rests upon something more substantial than the baseless fabric of speculation, and makes use of remedies which act in harmony with the vital power.

Many persons are too much inclined to pass sentence upon hearsay testimony—to approve or condemn before they are really acquainted with the subject on which they sit in judgment—a course as unreasonable as it is prejudicial, to a free and intelligent examination, which alone enables us to judge correctly of its merits.

Let us be willing to cast aside our prejudices and examine the subject on which so much of our happiness depends, with that sincerity and honesty of purpose which should characterize every lover of truth. Nor let us be backward to declare what our judgment approves, though it may not harmonize with old established and still prevailing opinions and practices. A.

☞The last page of the "Enquirer" will be mostly occupied with advertisements, as is customary with similar journals. In one respect, however, we shall deviate from the usual course, and that is by occasionally inserting a notice having no connexion with the object of the paper. We do this at the solicitations of our friends in Middleborough, where the paper has a very extensive circulation, making it the best medium for advertising in the town.

Our friends in Woonsocket, Bridgewater, Taunton, &c., will receive our thanks for the aid they have rendered us, and we hope they will not forget to give us a few of their good thoughts, of which they have so liberal a supply. To communicate forget not.

The 2d No. of this paper will be issued on the 1st of June.

Old Times in Medicine.

The time has passed away when oil from kittens boiled alive, was considered an admirable application for wounds; when toads roasted alive were administered for asthma, and the hairs of mad dogs for hydrophobia; when the powdered thigh-bone of an executed felon was considered a specific in dysentery, and ointment was applied to the inflicting weapon in order to cure the wound; when physicians placed confidence in phylacteries, and watched with intense anxiety the influence of black and white days, and the aspects of the stars; and when they hurried their unfortunate patients to an untimely grave, in attempt-

ing to quench the fires of fever and inflamation, by diligently feeding the consuming flame.—*Select Medical Review.*

Importance of Truth.

Who can tell how soon science may throw her light on that truth which is discarded, and show its application to some useful purpose? The falling of an apple is an insignificant thing, considered in itself, yet it was the clue that led Newton to some of the grandest discoveries in Philosophy. How many ages passed away, before a Fulton conceived the utility and application of steam?—Yet every old woman that had ever boiled a tea-kettle had generated steam; there was the truth, and the man that first applied it to propelling a boat with paddles on the Delaware, was thought to be crazy by the wiseacres. The fact is, we have conceived certain things to be impossibilties, and in our vocabularies this word means, something we have never known. The circulation of the blood was an important discovery in Medical Jurisprudence, and would not the simple fact of the circulation of the blood have been a truth worth preserving, supposing it had been accidently discoverved by some one who knew not what application to make of it? And is any man prepared to say, that all that may be known of value, in relation to it, is already known? Let me say, truths are precious things; they are the pioneers to grand and useful discoveries; they are diamonds that are sparsely strewn along the shore of time; if we find one, let us preserve it, husband it as a miser does his gold; the day may come when we can use it. Pure science is always modest. It vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, acteth not rashly, but rejoicheth in truth.—*Pitts. Ch. Advocate.*

Bleeding at the Nose.—A communication on Nasal Hemorrhage was lately read at the Academy of Sciences at Paris. The author, M. Negrier, announces, that bleeding from the nose may be almost instantaneously checked by raising the arm on the same side as that of the nostril from which the blood flows. It is well known that such hemorrhages are often formidable, and sometimes fatal. This as the Washington Spectator remarks, is important, if true.

J. M. ALDRICH,
BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,
Office at the Medical Herbarium, opposite the Mount Hope House.
RESIDENCE: CORNER OF PINE AND PURCHASE STREETS.

Look at This!

WE would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Middleborough and vicinity, that we are prepared to take Daguerreotype Miniatures in as good style as they can be taken in Boston. We are also prepared to take likenesses of sick persons at their own houses—also of Busts, Paintings, &c.

Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully invited to call and examine specimens.—Rooms over Pitt's Jewelry store.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

D. G. WHEELER,
G. F. DUFFY.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,
G. CARLOS WILSON.

Boston, May 15, 1846.

CARPETS,

Of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

Looking Glasses,

Of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

—ALSO—

All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices.

ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT DOOR NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S

And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

Almy & Milne—Printers—Weekly News Office—Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, JUNE 1, 1846. NO. 2.

The N. Y. Dissector.

Through the politeness of Dr. Sherwood, its Editor, we have received a copy of the above Periodical. It appears to be free from the trammels of Medical dictation, and not afraid to speak of the errors and mysteries of the Faculty. Under the head of "*Fallacies of the Faculty*," is a lecture delivered in London, by S. Dixon, M. D., which, for a combination of truth and error—good sense and crude absurdities, equals any production we have yet seen from a Medical pen.

He contends that there is no such thing as poison, in contradistinction to those substances which act in harmony with the living power. Thus Arsenic is no more poisonous than bread, Antimony than warm water. "Let babblers beware," he says, "how they commit themselves in this matter:—let them fully understand, that when they decry any agent in nature as being, in the abstract, a dangerous medicine or a poison, they not only arraign God for his goodness, but expose at the same time, their utter ignorance of his laws. What can be more absurd than such an idea, as if it was impeaching the goodness of God to assert, that every virulent poison which can be found was not intended to enter the human system. All his remarks to prove there is no such thing as a poison is mere fustian. That the natural tendency of certain substances is to destroy the vitality of the system, cannot be denied, and the quantity given, whether larger or smaller, does not change its inherent destructive property. All such articles are very properly termed poisons, and as they are inimical to life, they cannot prove beneficial in whatever form or for whatever purpose administered.

To prove the value of Emetics, he states the following facts, which go far to establish their superiority over the pernicious practice of bleeding and otherwise reducing the vital power:

"For a period now of five years, Staff-Surgeon Hume, in his Military Hospital, has treated his pleuritic and enteritic patients in this manner: during all that time he has not bled or leeched one patient for any disease—he has used emetics instead—and his practice has been beyond all precedent successful. Now that I call a Fact—a fact worth all the hypothetical assumptions of all these doctors, whose gains depend, not so much on speedy cure, as on protracted sickness! There is no part of the body that you may not influence by an emetic; the old physicians knew it—the physicians of an age gone by.

"A medical officer of the East India Company's service, sent for me at midnight, and you may imagine the pain he was suffering, when I tell you that I heard his groans before I reached his chamber. Shortly after leav-

ing a crowded theatre, he had imprudently taken his place on the top of one of the night coaches, where he had not been long seated before he was seized with repeated shivering, followed by fever and exquisite pain in the back and loins—in medical phrase, *lumbago*. When I saw him he had all the symptoms which, in the Schools, are termed high inflammatory fever, and he complained of agonizing pain in his back. His wish was to be bled, but I prescribed an emetic instead, and thus relieved him in the briefest space imaginable. From the moment he vomited, his back became easier, and in a few moments he was quite free from pain—a result equally pleasing and astonishing to the patient, who, on a previous occasion, had been confined six weeks to bed with a similar attack, notwithstanding repeated bleedings, leechings and blisters. Another gentleman who shortly after came under my care, experienced a like relief from the use of an emetic in nearly the same circumstances. Cases without number could I give of the beneficial influence of this practice in acute opthalmia, sore-throat, pleurisy, rheumatism, &c.,—diseases which under the usual or orthodox measures, would have kept the physician in attendance for weeks, and then, perhaps, have defied both his aid and his art. With the same practice I have had equal success in the treatment of hæmorrhages, eruptive fevers, &c.; and I might here give cases corroborative of my assertion, were I not borne out by many of the old writers, particularly Heberden and Parr, who found emetics followed by Bark, to be the best primary treatment of disorder generally."

Of the great "alterant"—Mercury—he says:

"This substance, instead of being a blessing to humanity, has recently become *one of the chief agents in man's destruction!* You daily see medical men—men who never reflect upon the effect of any medicine—prescribing four, five and six grains of calomel to children—to infants! Can you wonder at the frightful number of deaths that take place under seven years of age? Look at the bills of infantile mortality; and if you consider the quantity of calomel that children take, you will assuredly be compelled to declare, not how little medicine has done for the prolongation of life—*but how much it has done to shorten it!*"

And yet with this melancholy picture before his eyes, he proposes to continue the same destructive agency, as if changing its form or quantity to suit some new dogma, would alter its natural tendency which is to reduce the vitality of the system, by which means it becomes "one of the chief agents in man's destruction."

Such a course may very properly be called progressing in a circle, very much as the old school system has progressed for a century. A.

Vaccination.

As many of our citizens are being vaccinated on account of the appearance of the small pox in the village an attention to the following observations will enable them to decide when the vaccine matter has properly affected the system.

On the third day after its introduction it will produce a small red spot—

on the ninth the pustule will be transparent—on the 10th it should have a dimple in the centre and not be raised like a common pimple. A complete test of perfection is that when pricked with a needle, the contents are not all let out, the pustule being composed of many little cells, which do not communicate into one another. The genuine pustule is circular or oval and the margin never irregular and jagged. The redness should disappear on the 13th day, and the scab falls off about the 14th. If the pustule wants these characters and appears like a common pimple or inflamed sore, it will afford no protection to the small pox, however severely it may affect the patient with fever. By vaccinating the other arm on the 5th day after the first, both postules will ripen at the same time if the matter be genuine. A.

Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever.

As this disease is somewhat prevalent, a few observations upon its nature, treatment, and "the means of preventing its progress," may be interesting to our readers.

A particular miasm, or "infectious substance" is received into the system. Nature, acting in self-defence, makes an effort to drive this poison from the system. *This effort on the part of nature*, is what is called "Scarlet fever."

Upon considering this definition of "*Scarlatina*," it will be at once observed, that we look upon fever, *not as a disease*, but as a friendly effort of nature—as—if we may be allowed the expression—the best friend under the circumstances, the sufferer can possibly possess. Did not the system make this effort to throw off this poison—or should it be so deficient in strength as to fail in raising sufficient fever to accomplish the object, unless artificial aid be rendered, the consequence will be, death.

As soon as the miasm has been a sufficient length of time within the system to exert its deadly influence, the circulation becomes quickened, for the purpose of removing the injurious agent by throwing it upon the skin and mucous surfaces. The morbific matter thus accumulating in the stomach excites vomiting in order to its removal. Hence a quick pulse, with vomiting, usually attend the commencement of the disease.

Keeping in view this idea of the nature of "*Scarlatina*," the treatment which it requires, may be very readily exhibited. We should assist the vital power in its efforts by giving such stimulants and relaxants as will promote a free determination to the surface, and thus producing perspiration, enemas and alterants to cleanse the mucous surfaces and remove all morbific matter from the system.

When once the deleterious substance is thrown out by these several means, the exciting cause is removed, and the fever immediately subsides. There can be no long sequel of deafness—of sore eyes and such like diseases—*for*, the cause of all these evils has ceased to be present in the system.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the mind, that in order to remove Scarlet fever, or indeed any other fever, we have only to assist the

living intention, or in other words, *remove the cause*, and the fever will at once subside; since the object for which it is present is already attained.

In this disease, our standard authors with uncommon unanimity, speak very decidedly against the use of purgatives; "because," say they, "they induce debility." The system is directing all its power towards the removal of an enemy. Of course the greater the strength in the system—the more probability that the effort will be suceessful—the cause of the disease removed—and health restored. Instead of crushing the strength of the body by debilitating measures, reason would urge us to sustain it, as far as necessary.

Can it, therefore, upon reflection, appear singular, that success should crown the efforts that are made in accordance with the philosopby of the disease. The result of the reformed practice in the treatment of this disease, is a very significant fact. A case of Scarlet fever, treated in accordance with these principles, has never within the writer's observation, terminated fatally. And he is creditably informed, that a certain physician not far from this place, had in one season, several hundreds of cases, and out of the whole number had lost not a case, in which he had been the first called.

As it regards the means to be used, to prevent its spread, an author says, "the contagious miasm does not adhere to clothes, sufficiently to infect others, closely exposed to them. It must be received from the patient, or from a solid, or liquid poison, issuing from the patient." Physicians and others visiting those suffering under the disease, can avoid conveying the contagion to other persons by washing and other strict attentions to personal cleanliness on leaving the sick chamber. W.

Bathing.

The importance of bathing as a means of preserving and regaining health, is engaging the attention of all classes to a much greater degree than at any former period. The people, no longer looking up to the physician as the Alpha and Omega of their duty on the subject of health, are becoming engaged in an earnest enquiry after physiological truth, and aided by such writers as Combe, Graham and others, they are even now forcing their physicians into an acknowledgement of the valuable benefits of those very practices, which they have neglected to teach and even affected to despise. There has been a great change in the public mind within a few years on this subject. In England, a revolution is progressing, which, if persevered in, must be of incalculable benefit, for when once the importance of a free and unimpaired action of the surface is realized, and the necessity of bathing to secure that object, there will be but few, however elevated or degraded in social life, but what will enjoy its benefits. Baths and washhouses are being erected in London, Liverpool, and many other large places, for the common people, and even now the truth is being perceived, which one day will be more fully acknowledged, that there is an intimate connexion between physical and moral purity. In this country the prejudices existing against the practice, and which have been cherished and often produced by the

medical profession, owing to certain influences which excited their bigotry and selfishness, are fast being removed, and the various forms of bathing are being much more extensively practised by all classes of our citizens.—Still there are thousands among us who do not practice entire ablution at all. They are probably ignorant of the physiological truths which demand its observance, and certainly strangers to its pleasant and invigorating effects both upon the body and mind. When administering the bath, we have often seen persons astonished at the amount of impurities collected on the surface, and the resolution at once formed, that they would no longer do such manifest injury to their bodies, by neglecting a practice fraught with so much pleasure and benefit.

Dr. Thomson was the first physician in this country practically to exalt the vapor bath into an important station in the removal of disease, and the opposition it has met with from the Medical profession, the vile misrepresentations and slanders that have been circulated in order to prejudice the public mind against it, show us how completely a Medical despotism would silence any attempt to improve its practice or expose its errors, unless introduced under its own auspices.

But too much light has now been cast upon the subject to prevent further concealment; its good effects are becoming too palpable to be longer denied, and scores of physicians who a few years since would have hazarded their reputation, in allowing even a suspicion to go forth that they were so heterodox as to be in favor of vapor bathing, can now very courageously recommend it, many of them even, from "personal experience of its benefits." [TO BE CONTINUED.] A.

Rules:

The observance of which, we believe, will be conducive to health.

We closed our last article, by some remarks upon diet. There is an evil connected with this branch of our subject quite prevalent, which we shall now notice.

We allude to the practice of constantly eating. Those persons whose daily labor is very arduous, may possibly find it necessary to take food more than thrice through the day. But the number of those in health that require food except at their stated meals is very small. What shall be said then of the habit so many have acquired of almost constantly passing different articles into the stomach. The stomach, like other parts of the system needs rest. This practice deprives it of the needed rest. One consequence that follows is, a weakness of that organ and consequent loss of appetite, with dyspeptic symptoms. (Among those that deal in provisons who has not noticed the great proportion of those in ill-health from this cause?) But the worst evil consequent upon this course of conduct is, that it not unfrequently gives rise to a morbid state of the stomach, which calls not for food but for something of a stimulating nature. Hence the use of wines, brandies and other stimulating drinks.

The most common evil remains yet to be noticed. There are those too conscientious—too jealous of their reputation to gratify this morbid feeling

in the manner just named, but yet cannot withstand its gratification in some way. The quantity of cloves, confectionary and articles of a similar nature that is consumed by persons of this class, is truly astonishing. Yet this quantity is no more astonishing than is the monstrous appetite that the articles named have called into existence. Instances have been known where persons in the bloom and beauty of youth have so deranged their stomachs as to take down at once an ounce of cloves in order to satisfy the cravings of appetite. So far does this habit make those indulging it slaves to its own gratifications.

Persons taking such a course must necessarily soon lose their health.—The pale countenance—the languor of body—the alternate laughing and weeping—the drowsy days and wakeful nights—the pains in the teeth, and face, and head—the loss of appetite, amounting frequently to an almost disgust for food; these and many other evils are such unhappy individuals doomed to suffer.

Nor does the evil stop here. Cases have come under the observation of the writer where the derangement of the stomach had proceeded to such an extent that nothing but *slate pencils! dried mortar!* chalk and charcoal would satisfy this diseased craving. And they would be taken into the stomach in such quantities that the coatings of this organ would be sadly injured.

Where the practice is followed a sufficient length of time we find the sufferer "showing a fondness for solitude—indulging in grief and despondency—also a loss of appetite—constant pain in the stomach—whiteness of the tongue—difficulty of breathing upon bodily exercise—the skin of an olive complexion and cold to the touch—as well as a general debility."—Says a distinguished Medical writer, "*fatal consequences* usually attend this disease." Who then would persist in the use of these destructive articles?

W.

Poison a Medicine!

The Philadelphia Public Ledger says, "Think of a doctor's undertaking to restore a sick man to health by poisons that would infallibly kill a man already in health! Now, if the vital principle can oppose any resistance to poisons, and you will admit that it does, the greater it be, the more effectual must be the resistance. Give to a robust man in full health, sixteen grains of calomel, take from him twelve ounces of blood, put a blister upon his chest, and do this for three successive days, and—where will you find him?—Very near the grave! And the only reason he is not in it, is because his vital energies have restricted your destructive process.—If these vital energies be previously reduced by sickness, will not this resistance be less, and will he not be landed still lower?—Strange philosophy, that which attempts to cure the weak by means that kill the strong!"

Controversy.—A game, in which Destructiveness, Self-Esteem and Approbativeness, are apt to get the better of Conscientiousness.

Improvements in Medical Science.

There are many bigots in science who, plodding on in the paths of those who have gone before them, believe that no improvement can be made in medical science, and consequently attempt none. But the vast improvements which are daily being made in every other science, give the lie to such doctrine, and laughs it to scorn. As yet medical science has, in comparison with others, made small progress. How many diseases are there yet, which mock the skill of the faculty, and defy their power! And shall no improvements be attempted—no discoveries received? Must the public fall victims to those monopolists in science, who are wilfully blind to those means of alleviating the sufferings of mankind, which do not emanate from the rules of the ancient schoolmen? Already a change is taking place, which, it is believed will ultimately do away with the constitution destroying poisons, now so copiously administered by the faculty.—*Phil. Sat. Cour.*

The Thomsonian practice of medicine, notwithstanding the bias of education, the force of pre-conceived opinions, and the natural inclination of men to adhere to the customs and opinions of their forefathers, and oppose new notions and innovations; notwithstanding the odium and calumny which has been so lavishly heaped upon it by its enemies, and the unremitted efforts of the *legalized mineral faculty* to stigmatise and brand the system with infamy and contempt, and crush it at once by persecution and legal prosecutions, has continued firmly and rapidly to advance from the period of its introduction by Dr. Thomson to the present time, and its course is still onward. Time only tends to accelerate its march, to spread still more extensively its healing influences, and to add numbers to its adherents by a conviction of its superiority over all other systems, in the speed and certainty of its cures, and the safety and simplicity of its remedial agents. The *Botanic practice* has spread from individual to individual, from family to family, from town to town, and from state to state, until it has now become nearly identified with the life, health and happiness and interest of millions of the free and enlightened citizens of these United States. *Bangor Mech. & Far.*

It sometimes happens that when a person is about to send for a Thomsonian physician, the neighbors flock in and commence a long and terrific account of the dangerous and unhappy effects of lobelia in case it should not operate as an emetic; then, say they, it is sure death! Such people perhaps mean well enough; but, in making such a remark, they betray unpardonable ignorance as advisers, or state what they know to be false. We have a healthy son now sitting at the same table with us, who took *ten tea-spoonsful* of strong tincture of lobelia in one day, when he was only ten months old, and did not vomit for six months afterwards. He was not poisoned, but cured.—*Mechanic and Farmer.*

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT DOOR NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S

And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,
G. CARLOS WILSON.

Boston, May 15, 1846.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices.

ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Look at This!

WE would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Middleborough and vicinity, that we are prepared to take Daguerreotype Miniatures in as good style as they can be taken in Boston. We are also prepared to take likenesses of sick persons at their own houses—also of Busts, Paintings, &c.

Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully invited to call and examine specimens.—Rooms over Pitt's Jewelry store.

D. G. WHEELER,
G. F. DUFFY.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

Almy & Milne—Printers—Weekly News Office—Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, JUNE 15, 1846. NO. 3.

Bathing—Vapor Bath.

This form of bathing has been in use for centuries among Eastern nations and the Aboriginies of our own country. It has long been a luxury and a remedial agent among the Russians, and was introduced by them into Western Europe at the time of the war between Napoleon and Russia. Since that time they are being extensively employed in those nations, both in the preservation of health and in the removal of disease. Every year's experience seems more fully to demonstrate their remedial power, and to prove to us the benefit of increasing the vital energy instead of destroying it with the lancet and poisons. A very frequent cause of disease, is a sudden collapse of the pores of the surface, produced by exposure to sudden change of temperature in a person previously pre-disposed to an attack, from fatigue, debility, &c. The balance of circulation being thus destroyed, the blood charged with morbific matter, which cannot be eliminated by the skin, determines upon some internal tissue or organ, causing colds, diarrhœa, pleurisy, inflamation of the bowels, lungs, liver, &c., depending in severity upon the various causes which modify the diseased action. The effort of the vital power to remove the cause and restore the balance to the circulation, produces that condition of the system which we call fever, thus showing that fever, instead of being a disease, is only a manifestation of vital action, without which death would ensue.

In all these cases, and in all others where there is an unequal action, a want of vital power to promote and maintain a free, cutaneous circulation, experience and philosophy prove the great value of the Vapor Bath. As a means for the removal of disease, it appears to stand unrivalled by any other form of bathing, and however lightly its virtues may now be estimated by those who should best know its potency, its value and importance is not in the least depreciated on that account, nor much longer to be prevented from being far more extensively known and enjoyed. It equalizes the circulation, relieves morbid action, cleanses and invigorates the skin, giving it a marble like smoothness and polish, and by thus promoting its healthy action, enables the system longer to withstand the influence of cold.

A. Combe, in his physiology, says of Vapor Baths :

" That on the continent they are had recourse to, both as a means of health and in the cure of disease, to an infinitely greater extent than they are in this country. Their use is attended with the very best effects, particularly in chronic ailments, and there can be no question that their action is chiefly on the skin, and through its medium on the nervous system. As a means of determining to the surface, promoting cutaneous exhalation,

and equalizing the circulation, they are second to no remedy in use; and consequently in a variety of affections which the encouragement of these processes is calculated to relieve, they may be employed with every prospect of advantage. The prevalent fear of catching cold, which deters many from using the vapor bath, even more than from warm bathing, is founded on a false analogy between its effects and those of profuse perspiration from exercise or illness.

"The vapor bath is calculated to be extensively useful, both as a preservative and as a remedial agent. Many a cold and many a rheumatic attack arising from checked perspiration or long exposure to the weather, might be nipped in the bud by its timely use. In chronic affections, not only of the skin itself, but of the internal organs with which the skin sympathizes most closely, as the stomach and intestines, the judicious application of the bath is productive of great relief."

"As Medical agents," says Andria, "the vapor bath, by attracting more speedily the blood to the surface, and by being followed by more profuse perspiration, is more powerful than the warm water bath. It does not exert that pressure upon the surface, which in the case of warm water, retards the breaking out of perspiration. Many cases of gouty and rheumatic contraction of the joints, have been removed by persevering in the use of the vapor bath. In scrofulous diseases, especially when they affect the skin and the glands, benefit is derived from this mode of bathing. In some chronic affections of the nervous system, especially when connected with the repulsion or imperfect development of cutaneous diseases, the vapor bath is of great use; and also in some affections of the respiratory organs, such as dry catarrh, asthma and spasms of the muscles of respiration, so that on all accounts, the vapor is safer and more effectual than hot water baths."

It is a valuable agent in the reduction of fractures and dislocation.—Pulleys and the strength of several men are sometimes thought necessary to extend the contracted muscles sufficiently to bring the bones into their natural position, while the vapor bath, alone or aided by proper internal remedies, would, by relaxing the muscular system and rendering it pliable in the hands of the operator, entirely supercede this barbarous practice, so much at variance with the laws of muscular relaxation and contraction.

[TO BE CONTINUED.] A.

Lobelia a Poison.

Much time has been spent and many falsehoods circulated in order to prove the poisonous properties of Lobelia. That it is rather a hard task, may be inferred from the kind of evidence brought forward to sustain the position. A young M. D. in Providence appears satisfied of its truth, from the fact that he once examined the stomach and bowels of a person who died some days after taking a lobelia emetic, and could find no particular cause of death in that part of the body, therefore he must have been poisoned by Lobelia. Satisfactory evidence, very!

Others rely upon the "old women stories," as Professor Tully calls them,

which some of our opposing physicians and their dupes retail out in lots to suit customers. The fact is, very many of them are ignorant of the effects of the article which they declaim against with so much professional gravity, some of them, as has been proved, having so little practical knowledge of it, that they could not recognize it either from its appearance or taste; and they understand the proper manner of using it about as well as they do its medicinal qualities. One says it is a cathartic, another pronounces it a diuretic, and a third declares it a narcotic, while Professor Tulley, of Yale College, New Haven, says in his letter to Dr. H. Lee, "I have now been in the habit of employing this article for twenty seven years, and of witnessing its employment by others for the same length of time, and in large quantities, and for a long period, without the least trace of any narcotic effect."

"After Dr. Bigelow first pronounced it *narcotic*, subsequent writers very speedily converted "*something as black as a crow into three black crows;*" and Dr Ansel U. Ives, of New York, at last pronounced *lobelia inflata* to be a "*deadly narcotic,*" and that its action as an *emetic*, "*is secondary or symptomatic of the primary impression upon the brain, like that caused by tobacco and other narcotic poisons.*" But all this is mere stuff and closet speculation, and does not contain a single truth. There is no probability that Dr. Ansel U. Ives ever used the article in his life.

"As to the *cathartic power* of this article, I have the same ground for a negative decision, as in regard to its *narcotic power*, with one exception only, viz: some other species of the genus are unquestionably *cathartic*. I have never been able to produce a *laxative*, or even *eccoprotic* [opening] effect with it; but I have occasionally (though not often) known it to prove *coprostratic* [constipating.]

"I have a considerable number of professional friends who use it more than any other *emetic*, and on the whole, consider it one of the very best agents of this class in the whole Materia Medica, for a large number of cases of frequent occurrence.

"I am confident, (the old women's stories in the books to the contrary notwithstanding,) that *lobelia inflata* is a valuable, a safe and a sufficiently gentle article of medicine; and I think the time will come, when it will be much better appreciated. Little, however, of its value can be specified within the compass of a single sheet of paper."

Well, Doctors, which shall rule in this matter, "closet speculation," and "the old women stories," or a knowledge gained by trial and experience?

A.

Mumps.

This disease is often epidemic; and without doubt is contagious. It rarely occurs more than once in the same individual. At first, there is a stiffness about the angles of the jaws—many times attended with slight febrile symptoms.

The stiffness is soon followed by a tumor, or tumors, on the side or sides of the neck, occupying what are known in physiology, as "the *submaxilla-*

ry and *parotid* glands." These glands are situated—the first, under the angles of the jaw—the others, in front and a little below the ears. These swellings often acquire an astonishing size. They usually increase until about the fourth day, when they begin to decline. In a few days the swelling entirely subsides, and the febrile symptoms usually disappear at the same time.

These tumors have been known to be suddenly depressed. In which case the fever becomes aggravated—delirium is present—and death soon ensues. At other times suppuration takes place, and the tumor bursts inwardly, discharging its contents in such a manner as to produce suffocation and death.

There is however, usually, not much danger to be apprehended from the disease, *provided* taking cold is avoided.

Treatment.—The mumps, when mild, require but very little medical aid. Exposure to the cold should be avoided. The face and neck should be bathed in warm water, instead of cold, as cold applications have a tendency to cause a transfer of the swelling to other parts of the system. The system should be open, and if fever should arise, or the tumors suddenly disappear, applications of a warm and stimulating nature should be made, to induce a return; at the same time that we have recourse to thorough courses of medicine. Small doses of lobelia, and composition should follow, until the disease has so far abated as to leave no fears of further trouble. We repeat, however, the most important point is *to avoid taking cold.* W.

Rules:

The observance of which, will, we believe, be conducive to health.

No. 3.

3d. Avoid the use of wet clothing. There is in the community an error of opinion upon the subject, which is quite prevalent.

The error is this. If the clothing by any means has become wet, it must be worn until it becomes dry And what is still more strange, it is believed that if this practice is followed, it will prevent all evil that might otherwise arise from wetting the clothing in the first instance.

A moment's consideration will show the absurdity of such opinions—as well as danger of such practices.

If any one will pour upon the back of the hand, when somewhat heated by exercise, or otherwise, a small quantity of alcohol, the evaporation that will take place, will give it a sensation of cold. While the alcohol is being poured upon the hand, or by any means prevented from evaporating, the sensation of cold will be absent.

The same process takes place where any part of the body is wet with water, although in not so great a degree. As long as the water is prevented from evaporating, or drying, so long there is no feeling of cold created.

From the above statement, it is very easy to perceive where, and when, the danger from wet clothing arises. It arises almost wholly, from the evaporation; or, in other words, from the drying process. If persons

would remove wet clothing before the drying commenced, the danger would be but trifling.

Hence we deduce the rule; that wet clothing should be removed as soon as possible—and the persons having on wet clothing, should keep up exercise, until it is removed.

Any one who is correctly informed, as to the number of cases of colds, and consumptions that are caused by *wet feet*, and the *pernicious practice of not removing the clothing when wet*, will need no urging to induce an observance of this rule.

4TH. Avoid cultivating plants in sleeping apartments. This custom is quite common in some parts of the country, but the evils of the practice may, very easily, be made to appear.

The leaves upon trees and plants perform the same office that the lungs do in animals. Animals emit, by means of the lungs, from the blood, certain matter that is no longer of use to the system. So also with leaves.—The sap passes out upon them—comes into contact with the air—and gives off certain matter, that is no longer of use to the plant or tree.

In animals the great portion of matter thrown off, is carbonic acid gas, a most deadly poison. It is the same gas that arises from burning charcoal; which has caused so many deaths within a few years. A small quantity of it taken into the lungs, unadulterated, will produce instant spasms, followed, unless speedy help is rendered, by sudden death.

That thrown off by plants, trees and flowers, varies, *according to the quantity of light present.* During the day, they emit oxygen—during the night the same with animals—carbonic acid. As oxygen gas is emphatically the supporter of life—since animals would die immediately upon being deprived of it—and as carbonic acid is a deadly poison—and as the one is present with plants and flowers during the day, while the other is during the night—the inference is perfectly plain—that it is conducive to health, to have them in our sitting rooms; but by all means to banish them from our sleeping apartments.

We might quote cases, to substantiate these views, but think it unnecessary. W.

Reports of Cases.

The following reports were published some time since in the "Poughkeepsie Thomsonian:"

Middleborough, (Mass.,) October 29, 1845.

Dr. Lapham,—I notice your call for cases—but no one answers. I throw in my mite.

CASE 1. This was symptomatic, as follows.—Cold feet, dull headache, no appetite, darting pains through the chest and sides, violent cough attended with great pain in the side, much hoarseness, great weakness, raised considerably, &c. In short, the patient's friends called it a clear case of consumption, and one of a most alarming character. I commenced by regulating diet, for-

bidding exposure to night air, giving medicines of a warming character, and also of a nature to aid in raising from the lungs. After a day or two, gave a course of medicine, and followed on again with the other medicines. The course operated freely. Removed a large part of the unpleasant symptoms. In about a week, gave another. This, the patient and the patient's mother said, (to use their words,) "HAD CURED." I then ordered tonics and sudorifics, with care about diet and exposure to the night air. Also recommended morning walks and cheerful company. The patient now declares the disease to be removed.

CASE 2. Same family. BILIOUS FEVER.—Pulse about 100.—Sick at the stomach, violent headache, cold chills and hot flashes, &c. Gave a course, and then ordered to be kept through the day gently moist. During the night, gave occasionally sudorifics and febrifuges. Next morning, pulse at its natural standard, skin open and pliable, no pain; in short, fever was gone.

CASE 3. Little fellow 3 years old. He was thrown down, and jumped upon by a larger boy. When I saw him, the symptoms were as follows: Delirious, frightfully so; pulse too quick to be counted, eyes glassy, violent paroxysms, violent internal inflammation, &c. I endeavored to give an emetic, but it was almost impossible to get it down; and the struggle seemed to aggravate the disease. I then ordered steaming bricks, injections every six hours, and sudorifics and nervines, through the night. Next morning gave a course. Then followed as before, and the boy in 8 days was entirely free from disease. W.

[From the Medical Eclectic.]

Testimony to the Value of Vapor Baths.

The old maxim says, "Truth is great, and will prevail;" and it is interesting to witness any progress, (though it be extremely slow,) made in the removal of blind and unwarranted prejudice from the minds of medical men, and in the admission of true scientific principles. While, in European countries, vapor bathing has long been in extensive use, and been regarded as a most valuable remedial agent, it has, in this country, been made the subject of much taunt and ridicule. If one of our profession has, at any time, dared to be candid enough to encourage and recommend a judicious and scientific use of the vapor bath, he has almost uniformly been frowned on by his brethren, and denounced as the "steam doctor." Generally, indeed, the only accredited organ of the Profession in New England has regarded every such variation from the old beaten track of our predecessors as a heresy worthy of the most stinging sarcasm, and unqualified condemnation. We are happy in being able to say, that the tide of professional sentiment is turning. The tone of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal is wonderfully changed; and numbers of the most eminent physicians of Boston, now highly applaud, what has, till lately, been so

generally dispised. It is well known to many, that Dr. Miles of Boston, has for several years kept an extensive bathing establishment for the benefit of invalids, and for those who would preserve their healths by a means so simple and yet so valuable. We are gratified in observing, on the cover of the Journal of Health and Monthly Miscellany, the following recommendations. We have nothing to say at present, in regard to the peculiar medications employed in the Establishment noticed,—whether they are suitable in themselves, and whether they have any decided superiority over the simple bath. We quote merely to show that the vapor bath, as such, is now beginning to be commended by the highest professional authority; and expecting, as we are, in a short time to remove our residence to the corner of Carlton and Front Streets, we design there to furnish ample means for the accommodation of the *sick* and the *well*, in employing with themselves baths of every desirable form, as the cold shower, warm water, and vapor baths, both simple and suitably medicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The undersigned would unite in recommending, to the confidence and patronage of the public, the Medicated Vapor Bath establishment, conducted by Dr. M. M. Miles and H. B. May. We would do it, first, from the confidence which we have in the practical excellence of the Vapor Bath, which is becoming daily more in use among the medical profession, as a remedy for various forms of disease. It is so efficacious as to succeed, when many other means have failed.

Second, we would recommend it also from our personal experience of its benefits. We have resorted to it on various occasions and have been highly gratified wfth the results. We would further unite in recommending the establishment, in view of the kind attention which the patient receives, while there, and for the general good management which seems to pervade the institution, and the ability and skill with which it is conducted.

WILLIAM INGALLS, M. D.	J. TUCKER, M. D.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr., M. D.	N. C. KEEP, M. D.
ROBERT CAPEN, M. D.	E. G. TUCKER, M. D.
HENRY S. LEE, M. D.	A. BALL, M. D.
FRANCIS A. WILLARD, M. D.	DANIEL MANN, M. D.

Tobacco.

Tobacco is the servant of Alcohol and idleness. He is a sallow, ill-favored, good-for-nothing fellow. Some pretend he is a dentist, and cures the tooth-ache. Beautiful work he makes of it! The mouth where he has operated—what a place it is for pearls! The breath how balmy! But for a dentist he is a great while at it.—He is a sort of travelling dentist. You can hardly step into a tavern without stumbling over one of the beautiful basins which he keeps for his patients to spit in. And when he does not furnish these basins, his patients, the plagues of Egypt take them! spit on the floor. If people have occasion for a dentist, why not resort to his office and receive his attentions in private, instead of lugging the doctor about with them, and spitting his fragrant tooth-wash in all sorts of places?

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

J. M. ALDRICH,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office at the Medical Herbarium, opposite the Mount Hope House.

RESIDENCE: CORNER OF PINE AND PURCHASE STREETS.

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowestCash prices. ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Look at This!

WE would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Middleborough and vicinity, that we are prepared to take Daguerreotype Miniatures in as good style as they can be taken in Boston. We are also prepared to take likenesses of sick persons at their own houses—also of Busts, Paintings, &c.

Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully invited to call and examine specimens.—Rooms over Pitt's Jewelry store. D. G. WHEELER,

Middleborough, May 15, 1846. G. F. DUFFY.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, JULY 1, 1846. NO. 4.

Bathing—Vapor Baths.

We make a few more extracts from the writings of celebrated medical men, proving the great value of the Vapor Bath, as a remedial agent. They go far to show the efficacy of the reformed practice; for, when with the Bath is connected the judicious administration of medicines, its value is greatly enhanced, and its operation is attended with much more decided beneficial effects. To those who are unacquainted with the deceptions which have been practiced upon them by medical men, and have been made to believe that the Vapor Bath was one of the contrivances of the grim messenger, to cheat a man out of his life by his own consent, such high testimonials in its favor, must have a tendency to show them that ignorance and selfishness with their prolific train of deception, malignity, &c., may be clothed in the garb of science, and claim the reward of true merit, even while practising the most arrant quackery. It is no small compliment to the founder of the reformed practice, that he should have given so conspicuous a place in his system, to an agent, the value of which is being every year more extensively realized, and its virtues illustrated and defended by the best medical writers of our age.

Says Dr. Bell, of Philadelphia, well known in the walks of Medicine as being one of its highest ornaments, and as one pre-eminently distinguished in elucidating the laws of health for the well-being of man, "the aqueous portion of vapour applied to the epidermis or outer scarf skin, penetrates and softens it more completely than simple immersion in warm water would do. The simple watery fluid condenses on the skin or penetrating the epidermis, is so largely absorbed, and by its mildness and blandness is an agreeable diluent of the more stimulating fluids which have been in the vessels previously; the nerves are also pleasantly affected by this mild vapour applied to their extremities.

"Hence we can understand how, even although the caloric of the vapour should invite a greater afflux of blood and fluids to the minute vessels of the skin, the entire effect of this kind of bath should be of a soothing and sedative rather than a stimulating or irritating character. It is not so much, however, by simply restoring and exciting perspiration that this remedy is so serviceable, as by its restoring the due proportion between the secreting and absorbing vessels, accelerating their circle of functions, and without undue heat or excitement causing a renewal, as it were, of the cutaneous system; that is, of the tissues which compose it. Hence the old cuticle, after the regular use of the vapor bath, peels of, and new is formed; the complexion and color of the skin are improved by the removal

of the darker and discolored pigment or *rete muscosum* and the substitution of a new deposit. The inert and partially collapsed capillary vessels of the skin acquire more vitality and fulness from the afflux of blood to them, in consequence of the heat of the vapour, and they are more ready to supply the secretion of sweat, while at the same time there is a large imbibition of moisture, and consequently augmented size of the lymphatic and venous absorbents—two conditions, fulness of the capillaries by afflux of blood, and fulness of the absorbents by the watery fluid introduced, which give a plumpness and roundness to the skin and cellular tissue, observed in those who have just left the bath.

"In some protracted and unusually obstinate cases of intermittent fever, this bath has been productive of entire and permanent relief, and at particular stages of febrile diseases in general it might indeed take the place of other remedies."

Dr. Dunglison in the treatment of rheumatism remarks:—"Hot springs—like those so called in Virginia—have effected cures after every other remedy had failed; the Russian bath has been equally successful. Every hospital ought to be provided with an apparatus for fumigating and for the application of steam; and it is not creditable to the members of the regular profession, that they have not used more extensively, in this and congenerous diseases, an agency so *potent* as that of "steaming," when *judiciously* employed."

"Of all Turkish remedies," says Dr. Madden, "the vapor bath is the first and most efficacious in rheumatic and cuticular diseases. I have seen them removed in one fourth part of the time in which they are commonly cured with us."

Many more quotations might be made, but we deem these amply sufficient to show our readers, that the vapor bath is no longer looked upon as a doubtful remedy by those who are qualified by observation and experience to judge of its merits. A.

Undeniable Truths.

It is true, that, notwithstanding the immense labor that has been spent upon the science of Medicine, its practical result—so far as the Allopathic practice is concerned—is scarcely more favorable to life than it was a century since. Glorious progression!

It is true, that Bleeding, Blistering and Poisoning, all tend to destroy life, and consequently cannot be properly used in preserving it.

It is true, that the Botanic Practice is by far the most successful in the removal of disease, and leaves the patient free from the disastrous effects of poisonous drugs, which often cause a worse disease than the one they were intended to remove, even making death a welcome messenger to free the victim from the results of scientific quackery.

It is true, that the people are fast comprehending these truths, and are discarding poisonous and destructive agents, for those which long experience has proved to be more efficient in their operation, and in harmony with the laws of life. A

To the Public.

On May 7th ult., a child in this village, (Middleboro',) was seized, violently, with *Scarlatina*. She was placed under the care of two of the old school physicians.

On May 8th, (next day,) a sister, 3 years old, was seized with the same disease. The writer was called to prescribe for the latter child, after one of the other physicians had been asked to prescribe, and had done so.

The writer saw his patient, in the evening, ten hours after it was seized. Found her very sick, indeed. The lady with whom the mother of the children boards, gave it as her opinion, and it was the opinion of others, that she was seized more violently than the other. Indeed, the physician first called, said: "She is a very sick child. I don't like the looks of her countenance at all." The writer found her symptoms as follows: Pulse nearly 200—very faint. Breathing very laborious and short. Throat swollen.—Skin very dry and hot, notwithstanding efforts had been made for more than six hours, to produce perspiration.

Gave a course as soon as possible. But the system was so paralyzed by the disease, that it was only after giving emetic five hours, that the vomiting was produced.

Gave through the remainder of the night, medicine to keep up perspiration, and throw out the rash.

On the morning of the 9th, invited Dr. Brayton, of Taunton, providentially in the place, to see the child. He found the pulse about 200—child not materially different from the day before. Moved the bowels frequently, through the day, by *enemata*; washed the whole surface with saleratus water; applied onion poultices to the neck and feet; and commenced giving another emetic. About 4, P. M., produced vomiting, with some prostration. This reduced the pulse to 160, and brought out some rash.

During this day, the other physicians, *without any invitation*, visited my patient. One of them, professing to be "anxious to learn if there was any better way of practice, examined my patient and remarked: "it evidently, Doctor, has the same disease with the other child. It has the same breathing. It is a pretty sick child."

The same night, the same physician remarked in a public place: "My child is a very sick child, but the other is not very sick, and will get along, if it is not *killed, or baked to death.*" "The old woman has put *her* foot down, and they won't get any more lobelia down *that* child's throat."

This night the child was visited by Dr. B. and myself. We examined *both* children. Found the pulse in our patient, considerably higher and weaker *than in the other*, and the breathing more laborious—yet they were 40 less *than in the morning*. We continued the same medicine (emetic excepted) through the night. By miscalculation, the perspiration in the morning was allowed to dry off.

When Dr. B. and myself visited the patient on the morn of the 10th, we found the pulse 165—5 more than the night before—skin very hot, and dry, and the child very irritable. Ordered every means to be taken to produce

perspiration. Moved the bowels repeatedly—gave canker teas to remove the canker from the mouth and throat, and ordered the alkaline wash.

At noon, decided to give another emetic. The mother objected. She was told, "she could of course act her own pleasure, but it was always expected that a physician, so long as retained, would prescribe according to his own judgment. If she wished the child put into other hands, she could do so, at any time. But if the child remained in the hands of the writer, she must have the emetic. If it was her wish that the child should have another physician, I wished a *mother's* preference to be gratified." She replied, "I am perfectly satisfied with every thing that has been done. I think the child has been done well by, in every respect, but do not wish her to have another emetic. I find no fault with any thing but the emetic." After consulting with her friends, she, however, decided to have me, *if I would* give the emetic. I did so, and then left.

During this day, one of these physicians, *without seeing* my patient, reported the following:—"*She has not the scarlet fever, and has not had it.*—She was not very sick, but they have sweat it, and fussed over it so much, *that it must die.*"

In the evening, I visited my patient in company with Dr. B. We found a great improvement. Pulse reduced to 135—30 less than in the morning. Skin not so hot—child in sweet slumber and fine perspiration—breathing as easy as if in health. Ordered her to be kept quiet through the night.—If she slept and was warm, on no account to be awakened. I then left.—As I was leaving, the other physicians came in. I addressed them with the usual salutations, but they, neither of them, made any reply, or extended to me the courtesy that is to be expected from *gentlemen.* Soon after I left, such a scene as ensued, it is to be hoped for the honor of the profession, will never have a second performance.

One of the physicians, *as is declared*, UNASKED, went into the chamber where my patient was, and examined her. As soon as he discovered her situation, he broke forth as follows, to the two old ladies nursing the child: "There aint no scarlet fever. Where is your coated tongue? Where is your rash? Nothing ails the child, but your d——d lobelia, and sweating the child to death." The nurse called his attention to the appearance of the arms, and told him, that *he* had, *himself*, declared, that it was "caused by the rash." He replied, "it was caused by her rubbing them with pepper." (The child had *no* pepper, *at any* time, applied to the skin.) In reply to another remark, he uttered the following—beautiful and chaste, when addressed to ladies—"By G—d, I wish your brother was alive, he would tell you better." He then told the mother, "they have not, as yet, *killed* the child, but if they keep sweating it so, *they will.* The result of this was, the child was placed under their care.

During the day, an old lady saw the physician at a table, where was some of the writer's medicine. She removed it. While doing so, she remarked pleasantly, "I suppose, Dr., you do not wish to have any mixtures of medicine." "No! A d—v—l—h little mixture do I want," was the *very* dignified reply.

The next day he cautioned the mother to "watch the child closely, as lobelia would have a powerful effect *upon the brain. (!!!)* And morever, unless vomited up, *was* SURE DEATH. (!!!) Little did the sage doctor reflect that there was at that very moment, in that very family, one who had taken a large quantity of it, without vomiting, and *had lived already* three years after. Little also did he reflect upon the very chaste and elegant address he made to the lady of that one, upon the subject, soon after.

The writer submits the foregoing, without comment. Every fact stated, is capable of proof, by witnesses, whose names are in his possession. It is believed that the whole statement is true, in every particular. Should there be any error, our columns are open for reply; and all errors will be most cheerfully corrected. The object in view, is, to place the facts before an enlightened public, in order that they may pass judgment thereon. W.

—

TAUNTON, July 1, 1846.—I hereby certify, that I visited the above patient, as stated—and that the above statements of symptoms, when I was present, are correct. I have no doubt, from my personal knowledge, of the truth of the whole statement. J. G. BRAYTON.

☞We extract the following from a communication in the Botanico-Medical Recorder. It is from John Howard Wilson, M. D., a converted regular. Read it:—

"Do the remedies, calomel, opium and the lancet, harmonize with the laws of life or not? Let us try the issue fairly, and be positively informed on the subject. Professor Graham says:—"There is not, in the Materia Medica, another article which so immediately and permanently, and to so great a degree, debilitates the stomach and bowels as calomel; yet this is the medicine which is prescribed and sent for on every occasion. Its action on the nervous system is demonstrative of its being an article in its nature inimical to the human constitution, since what medicine besides, in frequent use, will excite feelings so horrible and indescribable as calomel and other preparations of mercury? An excessively peevish, irritable, and despondent state of mind, is a well known consequence of a single dose of this substance."

The late distinguished Professor Eberle expressed himself in the following language on the bad effects of taking opium: "The appetite and digestive powers fail; the body emaciates, and the skin becomes sallow, dingy, and shriveled; the countenance acquires an expression of apathy, inactivity and feebleness ensues, which ultimately often leads to convulsions, dropsy in the head, glandular indurations, incurable jaundice, or fatal exhaustion of the vital energies."

Professor J. F. Lobestein, speaking of blood-letting, says: "He who takes blood from the patient, takes away not only an organ of life, but a part of life itself."

Thus have I proved, by testimony from mineral physicians, that

the remedies, calomel, opium, and the lancet, are uncertain, unsafe and injurious; and that, instead of assisting nature, they absolutely enfeeble and prostrate her in her efforts to overcome disease.

Can it then, any longer, be a matter of wonder that the patient, under the mineral treatment, remains longer sick, and after recovering, presents a pale, emaciated and death-like appearance?—The case is too plain for argument or illustration. He has been subjected to the "fiery ordeal" of calomel, opium, the lancet, *et id omne genus*, all tending dangerously to enervate the powers of life, and any other than a tedious, protracted restoration to health, would be strange indeed, if not miraculous.

In the Botanic system, the remedies, as I have already stated, harmonize with life. The consequence is, than when the disease is removed, (which is done speedily,) the patient regains his usual strength in a very brief space of time, having a constitution not shattered by hurtful, poisonous remedies, but rather better than before—improved, strengthened, and renovated under the healthful process of the Medico-Botanic practice. The Botanic system of medicine, whenever and wherever impartially tested, cannot otherwise than show its superiority over the mineral practice, and as soon as the scales of prejudice fall from the eyes of the public, its principles will be universally embraced."

John Randolph's Opinion of Medicine.

This was expressed in that true laconic style for which Randolph was so remarkable. Though exceedingly eccentric, yet he had treasured up a fund of wisdom by acute observation, and was accustomed to express it in a kind of proverbial style, which caused his remarks to be remembered, when, had they been uttered in a different manner, they would have been forgotten.

During his absence in Europe, the death of one of his favorite servants occurred; and on hearing of his death when he returned, he inquired if he had a physician. The reply was, No. "Well, poor fellow," said he, "HE HAD A FAIR CHANCE FOR HIS LIFE."—Randolph was a philosopher, a very acute observer of men and things, and he well knew that his servant stood a better chance to recover without a physician than with one. It has been ascertained in France, by statistical observation, that more persons recover from sickness when left to the unaided efforts of nature, than when placed under the care of the physician.—*Boston Thom. Adv.*

Dr. Bigelow and Lobelia.

The T. M. Journal says: "Dr. Bigelow, in a lecture delivered before a medical class in Boston, compared lobelia to tobacco and sulphate of zinc, and declared it an improper remedy for disease, on account of the disagreeable and fatal vomiting it will produce."

Is Dr. Bigelow anxious to prove himself a knave or a fool, or both? He can scarcely be ignorant of the fact, that such teaching is both folly and knavery.—*Botanico-Medical Recorder.*

[From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.]

Cure for a Cancer.

Apply a poultice of raw cranberries. We have seen it once tried, where the cancer, about an inch or two beneath the surface of the skin, had become as large as a small pullet's egg. The cranberries were mashed in a mortar, and placed on, renewing them thrice in twenty-four hours. In a few days the surface was covered with pustules, which filled like the small pox, and became so sore that the poultice was suspended for a day or two; after they came off it was applied again, with the same effect; again suspended and renewed, and each time the cancer became softened and decreased in size, until it finally disappeared. Nearly three years have past, and it has never troubled the subject again. In this person it was an hereditary disease too, much the most inveterate. The virtues of cranberries are but imperfectly known—they have been known to cure a bad sore throat, are very cooling and efficacious for removing inflammatian. We have never known them used for Bronchitis, (in the throat,) but were we afflicted with that complaint it would be the first remedy we would try.—*Comm.*

Brocchieri Water Tested.

The efficacy of this fluid in staunching wounds, and restoring severed arteries, was fully established in New York on Monday week according to the testimony of the Courier and Enquirer, in presence of the editors, and Drs. Washington, Hosack, Wilkes, and other physicians. Dr. Barabino, of the United States Navy, opened the carotid artery of a sheep, by a long transverse cut, so that the blood spouted: "A pledget of wool, plucked from the back of the animal, was laid and *lightly* held on the wound, and the wtaer was then plentifully applied. In a few minutes the flow of blood was checked—in ten minutes more it had ceased—in twenty minutes the pledget was withdrawn, not without some effort, owing to its strong adhesion to the part, and the wound was free from blood and the artery closed! In twenty-three minutes the animal was walking about the yard." A second experiment was made upon another sheep with similar success. These are the *facts* as the editors of the Courier testify.

It is said that 2 ounces of brandy, 2 drachms of soda, a little sugar and water, form as good a styptic as the Brocchieri water.—It operates (as alleged) by powerful action on the blood, a good way *within the vessel!—Botanico-Medical Recorder.*

MARRIED.

At the Town Hall, in Fall River, on Sunday, June 28th, by Rev. Asa Bronson, Dr. T. W. Wood, of Middleboro', to Miss Abby E. Chappell, of Fall River.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica*," constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

J. M. ALDRICH,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office at the Medical Herbarium, opposite the Mount Hope House,

RESIDENCE: CORNER OF MAIN AND FRANKLIN STREETS.

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,
G. CARLOS WILSON.

Boston, May 15, 1846.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices.

ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

Almy & Milne—Printers—Weekly News Office—Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, JULY 15, 1846. NO. 5.

J. M. Wieting, M. D.

This gentleman has recently delivered a course of lectures in Fall River on Anatomy and Physiology, illustrated by two full sized Manikins, large models of the eye, ear, &c; which, connected with his untiring exertions to enable his audience to see and understand, gave an excellent opportunity to get a general outline of the wonderful structure of the much abused house we live in. His practical remarks, relating to the laws which govern the animal economy, the importance of understanding and obeying them in order to preserve health and prolong life, were in general, judicious and correct. The evils of certain prevalent practices, such as using Tobacco, sleeping in ill ventilated apartments, want of attention to the skin, too early mental education of children, &c. &c., were vividly portrayed, and must be productive of much future good. We could not however, see much force in his argument to prove the "foolishness," to use his own expression, of living on an exclusively vegetable diet. At best it appears no more than an ingenious speculation, which future investigations may or may not confirm; and until it is fully established, such confident assertions on his part, cannot, we think, be productive of any good results. But we were not a little surprised that a man so well acquainted with what is known of physiology, and the importance of a regular and healthful performance of all the various bodily functions, should be so ready to recommend the use of deadly poisons as medicines, and so willing to gratify ignorance and prejudice, by slanderous allusions to those who are not "scientific" enough to give mercury, use seatons, &c. Had he been to as much trouble to collect facts, with regard to the baneful effects of mercury, and to get a proper knowledge of the principles and results of the reformed practice, that he has to collect and dress up useless anecdotes, he might have found enough to convince any unprejudiced mind, of the baneful effects of the one, and the worse than folly of attempting to ridicule the other.

Mercury is an excellent medicine in enlarged livers, he says, but what say those whose experience enables them to speak with authority on the subject? The following is from Thomas Graham, of the University of Glasgow, and the Royal College of Surgeons:

"I have seen the constitutions of such persons, (who were supposed to have the liver complaint,) irrecoverably ruined by active mercurial courses, but in no instance did I ever witness a cure effected by this treatment. It is painful to recollect," continues Graham, "that in disorganized livers, mercury carried to the extent of salivation, is commonly regarded as the sheet anchor, the fit and only remedy; for I will venture to affirm that the

far greater number of such cases grow naturally worse, rather than better, by such use of it, and that this aggravation consists not merely in an increase of the patient's weakness and morbid irratibility, but that the existing disease in the liver becomes more extensive and inveterate."

Abernethy says, "Persons who are salivated have, as far as I have remarked, the functions of the liver and digestive organs constantly disturbed by that process."

Parre says, "Persons laboring under chronic *enlargement* of the liver, are not, so far as I have observed, benefitted by the operation of mercury; for, by the time the most careful examination can distinguish them, the progress of the disease has been already so considerable, that the mercurial action tends only to exhaust the power that art will subsequently in vain attempt to restore."

Hamilton says, "The only mode of exhibiting mercury for the cure of chronic hepatitis, (inflammation of the liver,) not unfrequently hurries on the disease, or, by impairing the constitution, lays the foundation for paralytic affections; and it may be truly affirmed that it thus often shortens life."

N. Chapman, Prof. of Materia Medica, in the University of Pennsylvania, says, "If you could see, what I almost daily see in my private practice, persons from the South, [where they get their enlarged livers,] in the very last stage of a miserable existence, emaciated to a skeleton, with both plates of the skull almost completely perforated in many places, the nose half gone, with rotten jaws, and ulcerated throats, with breaths more pestiferous than the Bohon Upas, with limbs racked with the pains of the Inquisition, minds as imbecile as the puling babe, a grevious burthen to themselves, and a disgusting spectacle to the world, you would exclaim, as I have often done, 'O, the lamentable ignorance which dictates the use (as a medicine) of that noxious drug, calomel! It is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine—it is quackery—horrid, unwarrantable, murderous quackery!'"

And yet, says Dr. Wieting, mercury is very beneficial in enlarged livers. Such quackery as this, "the six weeks doctors" (to use his expression) were never guilty of. However ignorant they might be of the human system, they knew too much about removing disease, to be chargeable with such inconsistency.

His lecture to gentlemen was one of the best of the course, and we hope that he will not be deterred by any foolish sensitiveness in those who perhaps affect more purity than they possess, from delivering the lecture wherever he goes. It is equally chaste and proper, and it is quite time that persons were better informed on those subjects so intimately connected with their happiness or misery. "Know thyself," is a command which should be much more implicitly obeyed, and those prejudices and practices, which are in opposition to this sentiment, are only so many barriers to virtue and happiness, by obstructing our progress in the great highway of knowledge.

A.

Rules:

The observance of which will, we believe, be conducive to health.

No. 4.

Avoid the use of much cold drink when heated. During the summer, such beverages are most craved, and the danger of fully enjoying them is proportionally great. The body being heated and fatigued by exercise, with more than natural accumulation, of heat upon the surface; the effect of passing much cold drink into the stomach, is, to suddenly reduce the temperature of that organ below that of the skin, thus destroying the balance of circulation and temperature, producing in severe cases, spasms, convulsions and death. In cases less severe, the internal organs became greatly debilitated, inflamation or other disease ensues, which may not always be easily removed.

The writer has seen this season, four individuals injured, one very severely, by drinking cold lemonade. The most dangerous case of dysentary he ever had, was caused by drinking cold water when heated.

Persons may think it very inconsistent to take warm drinks in summer, but tea drinkers have asserted that they feel cooler after drinking hot tea; partly owing, perhaps, to the fact that tbe sensation of heat, is greater, in proportion as the surface becomes equal in temperature to the internal organs.

Owners of horses take every precaution to prevent them from drinking much when heated, and it is no new thing to see persons more careful of their cattle than of their own bodies. Could the amount of disease and suffering which results from the free use of ice water, &c., be more generally known, it would, no doubt, serve to stimulate us to learn and obey more fully the laws of life and health. W.

Salt Water Bath.—Our friend, J. H. Vining, has constructed a floating bath at Robeson's wharf, for the accommodation of our citizens. It is conveniently fitted up, and so arranged, that a person can plunge into the river outside, or enjoy a bath inside, where the water is at a convenient depth. Such a convenience has been much needed, and we presume that ladies will avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded of enjoying the benefit and luxury of a salt water bath. We hope to see it so extensively patronized, that a large addition will soon be required.

The price of a season ticket is only 50 cents. A.

☞ H. W. Hill, professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the Medical College at Cincinnati, recently performed a successful operation for the formation of an upper lip, taking it from the cheek. The subject was a young lady, who met with her misfortune by taking mercury from one of the most "scientific" medical men of the country. Strange that mercury should produce such effects when administered by skillful hands! How will Dr. Wieting account for it? A.

[From the Poughkeepsie Thomsonian.]

Food and Digestion.

The comparative nutriment (says the London Athenæum) contained in the various articles of food, forms so important a subject, that we are induced to give a tabular view of the proportion in every 1000 parts:

Mutton,	298	Chicken,	270
Beef,	260	Veal,	350
Haddock, (a fish)	180	White of egg,	130
Milk,	72	Wheat,	950
Nuts,	930	Peas, (dry)	930
Barley,	920	Morels,	866
Beans, (dry)	890	Rice,	880
Bread,	800	Rye,	792
Oats,	742	Almonds,	656
Tamarinds,	840	Plums,	290
Pork,	240	Codfish,	210
Sole, (a fish)	210	Brain,	200
Grapes,	270	Apricots,	260
Potatoes,	120	Cherries,	250
Peaches,	200	Gooseberries,	190
Apples,	170	Peas,	160
Beet root,	148	Strawberries,	120
Carrots,	98	Cabbage,	73
Turnips,	42	Melons,	30
Cucumbers,	25	Blood!	215

Another element of health, and consequently of strength, is the facility of digestion. From Beaumont's tables, it appears that the following articles were converted into chyle, (digested) in the times indicated:

	HOURS,	MIN.
Rice, boiled soft,	1	00
Apples, sweet and ripe,	1	30
Sago, boiled,	1	45
Tapioca, barley, stale bread, cabbage, (with vinegar, raw,) boiled milk, and bread and milk, (cold)	2	00
Potatoes, (roasted) and parsnips, (boiled)	2	00
Baked custard,	2	45
Apple dumpling,	3	00
Bread, corn, (baked) and carrots, (boiled)	3	15
Potatoes and turnips, (boiled) butter and cheese,	3	30
Tripe and pig's feet,	1	00
Venison,	1	35
Oysters, (undressed) and eggs, (raw)	2	3
Turkey and goose,	2	30
Eggs, (soft, boiled) beef or mutton, (roasted or boiled)	3	00
Boiled pork, stewed oysters, eggs, (hard boiled or fried)	3	30

Domestic fowls,	4	00
Wild fowls, pork, (salted and boiled) suet,	4	30
Veal, (roasted) pork and salted beef,	5	30

We would remark, that in an unhealthy or foul stomach, these articles would probably be much longer undergoing digestion. And it should also be borne in mind, that the most nutritious articles of diet will not assimilate the soonest and afford most strength. For instance, potatoes [120 parts only of nutriment in 1000] will give more strength to the body than oil [all nutriment]. It will be seen by the above, that the various kinds of bread are more nutritious than flesh meat, but on account of the stimulating properties of flesh, it may produce more excitement in the system, and consequently impart greater physical powers. On some stomachs, vegetables will ferment—for such, a mixed diet of flesh and vegetables, (not crude) would perhaps answer best.

[From the Boston Thomsonian Medical Journal.]

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

How humiliating soever it may be to those who have spent many years in searching for medical knowledge, and have become eminently distinguished among the scientific, and looked up to, confided in, and almost reverenced by the uninformed, it is still a fact, that the most important medical discoveries that can be applied with any degree of certainty in the cure of disease—the best systems of practice—the most safe and effectual remedial agents, have been introduced into common use by the uneducated in the schools of physic. The most successful and scientific of the medical faculty are ready to admit, that the vapor bath is one of the most safe and salutary remedial agents, and would gladly introduce it more generally into their practice, were it not for two reasons:—1. There is too much work in its administration. 2. It was introduced by an illiterate man. But a few years ago, the "steam doctor" was despised, ridiculed, and persecuted; now, almost every physician is literally a steam doctor. We learn that the vapor bath is now in common use at the Massachusetts' Hospital. The world is indebted to Dr. S. Thomson, an illiterate farmer of New Hampshire, for the introduction of this valuable remedial agent. Forty years' experience in its use has established the fact of its superiority over every other remedial process. Lobelia, too, was once considered a poison, too dangerous for common use. No doctor of common intelligence dare risk such an assertion now. Pure water, now a common remedial agent, was introduced into common use by an illiterate peasant, of Graffenburg. Of what have the most distinguished and studious of the medical faculty to boast, so long as the fact stands forth to the view of all, that the greatest discoveries in medicine have been made by illiterate farmers, and they have been enabled to cure disease with certainty, that the medical

faculty themselves consider incurable. Medical science is now being investigated by the independent, the scientific and the wise—and wo to all humbuggery, deception and fraud. The gossamer-like web woven around error, must be stripped off, and the misrepresentation and falsehood that have beclouded truth, be burned off by the sunshine of investigation, that the true character of each may be seen, the former to be rejected and the latter universally embraced. But the "end is not yet." We must submit to be humbugged awhile longer. The "sugar-coated pills" and "pain-killers," must have their day. The imposing pretensions of allopathy will have their effect. Homœopathy is a hook, admirably baited, to catch some fish of no small magnitude. The puffed secret medicines of all the systems will find purchasers; but know ye, when the people begin to read, investigate, discuss and doubt, the end is at hand. Then let him, who is a regular, flee into some other business, and him who is a manufacturer of quack nostrums hide himself from the wrath of those he has humbugged. Then shall they who have come out of great tribulation, been persecuted, despised, and rejected, in consequence of the truth of their principles, and the adaptedness of their remedies, exciting the jealousy and envy of those whom the people have chosen to rule over them, prompting them to persecute and slander those they could not frighten or decoy, occupy their proper place in the confidence and affections of the community.

[From the Poughkeepsie Thomsonian.]

Dislocation of the Thigh Bone.

A widow lady, by the name of Drom, residing in Cobbleskill, Schoharie county, in February, 1846, fell and dislocated the tibia; he sent for an M. D., who has lived under the sign of surgeon for more than twenty years. He examined her, and said the tibia was broken near the joint, and the hip bone was so fractured that it could not be set, and the patient must die. Another M. D. was called, and others consulted, and after operating several hours on the sufferer, at different times, they decided that it could not be set, and said she would die.

After lying on her back, in this condition, suffering the most excruciating pain, for two weeks, they sent for me. From the messenger's description, I expected a desperate case, and took two students with me, and soon arrived at the house of affliction, a distance of about ten miles. Mrs. D. related her sufferings, and said the doctors had almost killed her, had done her no good, and that she had not slept one night since she was hurt. She said the doctors' orders were not to have her moved. I found no bones broken, but simply a dislocation; and after the necessary preparations, soon reduced it, and she fell asleep in fifteen minutes after the operation. She was soon able to walk out and is now well.

One of the M. D.'s met her son on the road, soon after I set the hip, and asked him how his mother was? He replied, better, since the Thomsonian reduced the dislocation. The conquered son of old Bombastus contended that the bone was not set, and could not be, and seemed confident that Mrs. D. would die from the injury.

If a blunder of this kind had happened among Thomsonians, it would have been sounded by our opponents to the four winds, but little is said about this, save that the doctors were mistaken in that case.

One of the doctors employed by Mrs. D., was once called to a patient with a tumor on her breast, which he pronounced a cancer, and said he would cure it, and commenced by giving calomel, applied circuta, gave tincture of stramonium, nitre, arsenic, &c.; continued this treatment four weeks, when she died. This was a scientific treatment—poisoned to death.

Hyndsville, May 10, 1846. A. MOSHER, T. B. P.

Ill Nature.—There is a great deal of ill nature in man, and there are many ways in which it is permitted to ooze out, and diffuse its putrifying taint over society. Misfortunes that should excite sympathy, rouse only a grosser feeling, and the sufferer is blamed where he should be pitied. Errors that ought to be treated kindly, and dealt with according to the dictates of warm-hearted charity, are met with a degree of harshness that hardens instead of softtening them. Strife and bitterness, hard words and hard blows, law suits, raplne and bloodshed, are among the stupendous evils that the ill nature of man gives birth to.

Morning Air.—There is a freshness and purity in the morning breeze, which to the physical and moral state of man, is vigor and delight. It is seldom that the sensualist, the idle, or the vain, taste its ethereal joys. A mystical spirit lurks in the perfumed breath of awakened creation, which is undoubtedly gifted with supernatural power. Those who would live long and see good days, must habitually become early risers. The loss of the morning hour can never be retrieved.

If knowledge of the causes of health and disease were generally diffused, and if the sanctions of religion and the opinion of society were directed toward enforcing attention to them, it is reasonable to believe that in every succeeding generation, fewer and fewer parents would produce children with feeble constitutions, and fewer and fewer adults would cause their own deaths prematurely, by ignorant infringement of these laws.—*Combe.*

An infallible preventative against the attacks of the mosquitoe is the oil of penny-royal; one drop applied to the clothing, or the hair, will keep them at bay the whole night.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.
Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S
And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

Almy & Milne—Printers—Weekly News Office—Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, AUGUST 1, 1846. NO. 6.

Cold Bathing.

From the conduct of many people, we might be led to suppose, that they regarded water as some poisonous thing, which they were compelled to use, but which might be rendered less injurious by mixing various substances with it, such as tea, coffee, alcohol, &c. They drink as little of the pure article as it comes gushing from nature's fountains, as possible, and so little do they regard the propriety of its application to the skin, that years are suffered to elapse without practising entire ablution. In cold weather it makes them too cold, in warm weather they are too warm, and at no season of the year can it be recommended to some persons without their perceiving some serious injury resulting from its use. It answers well to turn factory wheels, to put out fire, to fertilize the earth, &c., but it is altogether too simple and abundant to be of much benefit to the human system. We ransack creation from circumference to centre for some deadly poison, sparsely produced and deeply hid, like some evil genii, in gloomy caverns: this we use, and praise its deadly powers, while the sparkling fountain, containing more balm for the diseased system than all the poisons that ever decked an apothecary's shop, is passed by in utter denial of its usefulness. Cold water is a valuable and an indispensable agent in the preservation of health and in the removal of disease. It has saved life when the lancet, blisters, calomel, &c., had been used in vain, except to assist in destroying the vitality of the system. "Every one," says the "Water-Cure Journal," "who has arrived at the age of twenty, can easily call to mind instances in which persons were given up to die of fever, and yet when the natural instinct for cold water was gratified, and this to the full extent, the patient has quickly recovered, notwithstanding he had been told most strenuously that such a practice would prove his certain death." The Water-Cure system, as practised by Priessnitz and his followers, is doing much towards destroying the prejudices so long existing against the use of cold water, and to develope perhaps more fully its virtues as a remedial agent. Its daily application is one of the surest means to preserve the body from the effects of sudden changes of temperature, and to keep up a free and healthy action throughout the system. Like every thing useful, it may be abused, used at an improper time, or too long continued, which only teaches us the necessity of knowing something for ourselves of physiological laws, instead of trusting altogether to chance when we are well, and to the physician and his prescriptions when health is destroyed.

Many persons suppose that a cold bath should never be taken when a

person is heated. We have often had them object to taking a shower at the conclusion of a vapor bath, when all experience proves it to be not only very pleasant, but beneficial by removing the surplus heat, and giving tone and energy to the skin. In cases of fever too, how refreshing to the patient is its application externally and internally, and we believe that community would never have been so averse to its use in such cases, had it not been so incompatible with the exhibition of calomel, which not only disregarded the wants of the system, but often usurped the domain of life.

The injury sometimes resulting from its use is owing to the fatigue of the system, and not to excess of heat, as many suppose. It should ever be remembered that cold water must be very sparingly used immediately after severe exercise. However agreeable it might be at the time, the desire should not be gratified until the system has recovered from the exhaustion and fatigue. Many have been prejudiced against its application under any circumstances because of the serious injury which has resulted from disregarding this physiological truth. A.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Peirce Academy.

Through the politeness of the Principal, we have received a catalogue of this Institution.

We are much gratified at the evidences of prosperity attending the arduous labors of the Preceptor and Preceptress.

A short time since, we spent a few moments in observing the rooms and grounds belonging to the Corporation. We could scarcely restrain our feelings as we recalled the many happy hours spent there, and also the many friends we had there met.

But if any one of those friends, after a short absence, should now return and visit those "hallowed scenes," they would hardly recognize that spot, cherished so sacredly among the treasures of memory. The interior has been entirely changed and adapted to the increasing demands of an enlightened community; while the external has kept pace in its improvements.

But the most gratifying features remain to be noticed. We allude to the manner in which instruction is imparted. It was our pleasure some time since to be present at the annual examination. We were much gratified to observe the manner of recitation. The pupils are not taught, parrot-like, to repeat a certain set of phrases, ignorant of their meaning, as is too often the case; but they are taught to clothe the ideas in their own words. They are not taught to receive the author's views as truth—but taught to examine those views, and test their soundness. And what pleased us greatly, was the fact, that much attention is paid to analysis—perhaps, *the* process, of all others, best calculated to strengthen, and discipline, the mind.

We should be pleased to speak more in detail, but space and time will not allow. We were, however, much gratified with a class in Physiology.

What a reproach it is upon our Institutions of learning, that this very important study is so much neglected. "Know thyself," is a very essential duty, and yet almost universally not observed. But, thanks to this "age of improvement," this evil is somewhat abated. Many of our best Institutions have nobly stepped forward, and Peirce Academy among the number, to impart the information that is of so much consequence. When the human system, its structure and physiology shall become generally understood, the days of quackery, nostrums, and *learned humbug*, will have an end.

From our own observation, and acquaintance with the Instructors, we think we can safely say, that "*Peirce Academy*" is worthy of the support of an enterprising and enlightened community.

For terms, and other information, we refer our readers to the advertisement. W.

London Porter, &c.

As many allopathic physicians are in the habit of prescribing London malt liquors which come to us under various names, and as some not under the physicians care, think they require a little for the stomach sake, we insert the following in order that persons may know some of the materials composing the *delicious* and *healthy* compound:

"Malt Liquors.—Professor Brande, in an article on malt liquors, describes the manner in which they are adulterated, in the beer-shops and public-houses, and some of the breweries of London. The English are remarkably fond of malt liquor; it serves many of them for meat and drink, and lodging also. It must be a racy, piquant and nutritive article of diet, if what the Professor says, is true. He tells us that green *vitriol* is used to make the beer frothy, *treacle* to sweeten it, *coculus indicus** to intoxicate, *pepper* to sharpen it, *grains of paradise* to warm it, and *salt* to prevent its quenching thirst. One of the most common, and at the same time most pernicious narcotic additions is *tobacco*, which, being licensed at the publican's, is not, like the other articles, tangible by the officers. This is not, it is said, an exaggerated account of the composition of the trash which, under various seductive names, is pumped up from under-ground laboratories, and retailed at the bar and tap; and that it is which the laborer, because, perchance, it is stimulating and stupefying, considers strengthening and comforting."—*English paper.*

*It is poisonous if swallowed, bringing on nausea, fainting and convulsions. The berries possess an inebriating quality, and are used in catching fish, which they have the power of intoxicating and killing. A.

Cure eor Dhunkenness.—The following siugular means of curing habitual drunkenness is employed by a Russian Physician.—It consists in confining the drunkard in a room, and furnishing him at discretion, with brandy diluted with two-thirds of water; as much wine, beer and coffee as he desires, but containing one third of

brandy; and the food, the bread, meat &c., are steeped in brandy and water. On the fifth day of this regimen he has an extreme disgust for brandy, and earnestly requests other diet; but his desires must not be yielded to, until the poor fellow no longer desires to eat or drink. He is then certainly cured of his penchant for drunkenness. He acquires such a disgust for brandy, that he is ready to vomit at the very sight of it!

☞ We ask the attention of our readers to the following article. We copy from the "Water-Cure Journal." It is from the pen of Dr. John Burdell, who is spoken of as a man of merit, and whose opinions are worthy of notice. W.

It is an established fact that all mineral poisons have a deleterious effect upon the constitution and general health. But few persons take the trouble to inquire into the nature of such substances, or the effects resulting from their use. We know from facts and observation, that when taken into the system in large quantities, they will destroy life; and here we too frequently stop without further investigation. It is not my wish to attempt to prove a fact so universally admitted, but to investigate the subject, and apply the information thus gained to practical purposes. Arsenic is so called from an Arabic term, to denote its *strong* and *deadly* powers. It exists in various mineral substances, and is obtained by various chemical analysis, and is of various kinds. The white powder, known as *arsenious acid*, is in most general use, and is accounted the most deadly poison, and will cause death when taken into the stomach or applied to the system externally. Still, attempts have been made to bring this poison in more general use in the practice of medicine in this country; although in Paris, where it was formerly much used in the treatment of ulcers, cancers, &c., it is now almost entirely discarded. Some physicians and dentists, however, still contend for its use, while others of high authority remark, that they have never seen it used in any form without decided injury to the constitution. Those who advocate its use, we presume, do not take future consequences into the account. But of its use by dentists for the purpose of destroying the nerves of decayed teeth, is what I wish to speak more particularly, which practice cannot be condemned in too severe terms, as cases are numerous of its injurious effects upon the constitution when used in small quantities for this purpose; some of which have come under my own observation.

Sir Astley Cooper, in his lectures, bears decided testimony to the dangerous effects of arsenic applied externally. When used in dental practice, it is disguised by different appellations, and combined with other substances; and individuals are not aware of the article used on their teeth. When applied to the nerve of a tooth, it penetrates the membrane; (which becomes much diseas-

ed,) and is absorbed by the system. The face and entire jaw are often affected with inflammation and ulceration; and finally a portion of the jaw exfoliates and crumbles away. The whole nervous system becomes inflamed and diseased, thus preparing the way for that most painful disease, *tic doloreux*, and sometimes causing it. When once brought into this state, it is impossible the system should entirely recover. The patient will always experience pain and irritability in the parts thus affected, whenever the person takes cold. I have known instances where the health has been much injured by this means, and life very much shortened.—These results should teach us to beware how we use an article so injurious to the vital economy.

(From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.)

Mercury.

Mercury or quicksilver is chiefly from a red ore, termed cinnabar, and is the only metal which preserves its fluidity at ordinary temperatures. There are various preparations of this mineral, all of which are more or less poisonous. The more common of them are calomel, corrosive sublimate, red precipitate, and blue pill.—Mattson's American Vegetable Practice, 103.

Such is the diversity of circumstances in different samples of fever, and so great is the uncertainty of the effects of mercury on the system, that no precise rule for its administration can be given or regarded.—Thacher's Practice, page 214.

Mercury, in some instances, exhibits at once all the phenomena of a poisonous action, productive of the most mischievous, and sometimes even fatal consequences.—Chapman's Therapeutica, Vol. 2, p. 258.

"Mercury," says Dr. Rush, "is the Goliath of Medicine."

It is certainly a Goliath to destroy: it is the uncircumcised Philistine of Medical Science, who defies the armies of the living God. The numbers slain by his arm let India, and America, and the world witness. The multitude of the valley of Hamon Gog would not equal their countless hosts, if mustered on the field of battle. The heroic medicines, as they are emphatically called, deserve indeed a considerable share of the praises of the Cæsars and Alexanders of the world, powerful to destroy, heroic in blood, and havoc, and desolation. It was the boast of Alexander, "I have made Asia a desert, I have trampled down its inhabitants, and prostrated its ancient renown."—Rob., page 141. Poisons have done more.

"From mercury's occasionally acting on the system as a poison, quite unconnected with its agency as a remedy, and neither proportionate to the inflammation of the mouth, nor the actual quantity of the mineral absorbed, Mr. Pearson noticed that one or two patients died suddenly every year in the Lock hospital. The morbid state of the system, which tends to the fatal event during a mercurial course, is named by Mr. Pearson erethismus, and is char-

acterized by great depression of strength, a sense of oppression in the præcordia, irregular action of the heart, frequent sighing, trembling, a small, quick, and sometimes an intermitting pulse, occasional vomiting, a pale, contracted countenance, a sense of coldness; but the tongue is seldom furred, and neither the vital nor natural functions are much disordered, &c."—Cooper's Dic., pages 1, 70.

"Mercury occasionally attacks the bowels, and causes violent purging, even of blood: and produces inflammation, ulceration, and an excessive flow of saliva."—Ib. p. 190.

"Mercury often produces pains like those of rheumatism, and nodes of a scrofulous nature."—Hooper's Dic., p. 552.

"Many courses of mercury would kill the patient, if the medicine were given internally; because it proves hurtful to the stomach and intestines, when given in any form, or joined with greatest correctors."—Ib.

"Violent salivations, at all events, ought to be forever exploded."—Cooper's Dic., vol. 1, p. 449.

The following is from Thomas Graham, of the University of Glasgow, and the Royal College of Surgeons. He says, (see Indigestion, page 132,)

"When I recall to mind the numerous cases of ruined health from the excessive employment of mercury that have come to my own knowledge, and reflect on the additional proofs of its ruinous operations, which still daily present themselves, I cannot forbear regarding it, as commonly exhibited, as a minute instrument of mighty mischief, which, instead of conveying health and strength to the diseased and enervated, is made to scatter widely the seeds of disease and debility of the worst kind among persons of every age and condition." He also says, (p. 134,) "There is not in the whole materia medica another article which, so immediately and to so great a degree, debilitates the stomach and intestines as calomel."

[From the Independent Botanic Advocate.]

Interesting Case.

About eight years since, a young man aged 17, then living with me, drank by accident a quantity of the oil of vitriol, supposing it to be water. Finding his mistake, he fled to the water and drank freely. Being absent from home myself, Dr. Stevens a Botanic, was called, and immediately gave an emetic of Lobelia, it being then about half an hour after the vitriol had done all its mischief. The next day he began to discharge from the mouth saliva in large quantities, from three quarts to a gallon a day.

This salivary collection would also accumulate in the stomach, when the pain would be excruciating. When the severe pain come on, I gave the 3rd prep., sufficient to vomit freely, which would invariably give relief: but this I had to resort to every three or four hours for two days and nights. At length the entire coat or mem-

brane of the tongue and stomach came off—leaving, of course, the tongue and stomach perfectly raw or bare, so far as the nucous membrane is concerned. It was very difficult for him to receive nourishment; but, by the use of composition and restorative bitters, in a few days he entirely recovered. The neighbors and M. Ds. said that there never was a case of the kind that lived or recovered. STREET H. KEELER.

Westport, Fairfield co., Ct.

Opium.—This article has been almost exclusively for years used to quiet the nerves and still restless children. Many a poor infant has suffered death by the administration of this deadly drug; and many a stupid head and stupified person, has it sent into the world; never to speak of the multitudes it has sent out before there time. It is a most deadly drug, and seems to destroy the vital action of the whole system. But, say the physicians, it relieves pain; yes, it relieves pain by deadening sensibility; a bullet or a dagger will relieve pain in the same way. But the important question is, will it remove pain by removing the cause of pain, disease? Will it not, on the contrary, give force to the disease, by weakening the vital functions? Does it not establish disorder in the system, by rendering all its powers torpid.

It is a point conceded by medical writers, that the operation of medicine does not depend on any of the common laws of matter, but on the principle of vitality alone. Now, from this concession, the theory of Dr. Thomson is established; for he affirms the great value and success of his medicine depends on this principle, that it is in harmony of the vital powers. As the operation of medicine depends on the principle of vitality alone, it must harmonize with the vital principle; or, otherwise, so far from being a remedy, it would be a poison; because depending for its action on the principle of life, if its action be in opposition to that principle, it cannot restore health, but destroy it. And the very conclusion of Thomson's theory, is in perfect accordance with physician's doctrine, but in opposition with their practice.—*Robinson's Lectures.*

Tipplers, Attention.—The habitual use of intoxicating drinks, is borrowing strength for an occasion, which will be needed for futurity, without any provision for payment, and with the certainty of ultimate bankruptcy.

Peirce Academy

WILL commence its Fall Session of 16 weeks, MONDAY, July 27th. Pupils admitted at any time during the session, but not for a less period than 8 weeks.

Tuition, for the Higher English Branches and Languages at the rate of $5,00 per quarter of 11 weeks.

Common English Branches, $4,00 do. do.

Drawing and Painting, extra, $2,00 for 14 weeks.

Board, including washing, for Gentlemen, $1,75 per week.

" " " " Ladies, $1,50 " "

Middleborough, Aug. 1, 1846. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y.—5t9

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the *"Materia Medica,"* constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S

And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hosiery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

Almy & Milne—Printers—Weekly News Office—Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, AUGUST 15, 1846. NO. 7.

Calomel, or Mercury.

We ask the attention of our readers to the following quotations. We hope it will be borne in mind that they are from the most eminent physicians, both of this country and other countries. We quote first from Dr. Matthias.

"Mercury attacks the bones, the periosteum, the tendons, and in the joints, cartilages, and ligaments." "The bones of the head are often subject to its injurious effects. The patient is afflicted with violent headaches. These pains very frequently shift from one part to another, disappear, and then return again. Patients sometimes suppose them to be a rheumatic affection."

"The teeth often drop out from the destruction of the gums, and indeed few bones in the body are exempt from the mercurial violation. The bones and cartilage of the nose often suffer sudden and irreparable mischief. In short, mercury appears to destroy the energy of the nervous system, producing weakness, tremors, palsies, fatuity, epilepsey, and mania—the most dreadful of all; and indeed no part of the body is exempt from its deleterious effects. The countenance is pale and wan, the nights bad, appetite impaired, strength much reduced—and there are present headache and flying pains in the bones, especially on the approach of bad weather, or of northeasterly wind.

We quote from Dr. Anthony Hunn. Describing the effects of calomel, he says:

"The teeth become loose, and rot, perhaps fall out, or worse still, the upper and lower jawbones exfoliate and rot out, sometimes in the form of horse shoes; parts of the tongue and palate are frequently lost, and the poor object of commisseration lingers out a doleful existence. A tremendous description this, indeed; yet this happens when mercury *performs a cure*. Our best informed dentists declare, that they can clearly witness the progress of the use of mercury, in the increasing diseases and decay of the teeth."

We know that the above statements will be looked upon as *far distant facts*. That is to say, the events transpired far away. They may be true, they may not be true; we have no means of judging. We propose in order to do away that objection, to present to our readers an account of two cases, which have come to our knowledge, the particulars of which are at the disposal of any one who may wish to possess them.

The first case occurred in a town at some distance. The patient is a young man about 22 or 23 years of age. When quite young, he was seized

with disease. A mineral physician was employed, who gave large quantities of calomel. Portions of the internal mouth sloughed off, and dropped out. He however recovered from his disease, to live a monument of the terrible effects of the poison. There is now, and has been, from the time of his taking the poison, an opening through one of his cheeks, of sufficient size to display several of his teeth, while on the opposite side the cheek has adhered to the jaw bone, preventing nearly all motion of the jaw. He is prevented from masticating his food, and can only take it by triturating it through his front teeth with his finger. Verily, "calomel is a delicate, *safe* and salutary medicine."

But to come still nearer. We will take a case in our own town. We had it from the daughter of the *victim to malpractice.*

An old gentleman was moderately sick. He called in a physician. Certain little *white powders* were left. After a sufficient number were administered, the internal mouth turned black, sloughed off, and dropped out.—The throat became very badly ulcerated, and deglutition extremely difficult, as well as painful.

At this stage of the "*mercurial disease*," the friends of the patient became alarmed—(and they had, we think, sufficient reason)—and called in another physician. He, too, was one of the old school order, and a member of the same medical society with the former. In his opinions concerning the first, we have every reason to presume he would be unprejudiced. As soon as he saw the patient, he enquired with some considerable haste and anxiety, what had been given the patient. On being told "*powders*," he asked for the remainder, and on seeing them, and learning the directions left with them, he could no longer restrain his words. "*The rascal!*" said he—"did he not know any better? 'Tis calomel—calomel—that is *all* that ails the man."

He applied himself as diligently as possible, to stop the ravages of the poisonous mineral, but notwithstanding his utmost endeavors, the disease increased in virulence to such a degree, that for 7 days he could pass nothing from the mouth to the stomach, and other means were resorted to, necessarily, to supply the system with nourishment.

Now suppose a botanic physician had produced half the bad effects above named, what a hue and cry would have been raised—*and justly too.* And why should our mouths be stopped now? O, the tremendous power of prejudice!

We believe the above statements to be correct in every particular, but yet there may be errors. If so, we shall most cheerfully correct them when they come to our knowledge.

We might append some comments, but prefer to let the opportunity pass, leaving the facts for our readers to ponder upon, and then comment as they may choose. W.

Whenever there is in the human system great heat *attended with much fatigue,* a cold bath is dangerous, and will often under such circumstances be attended with fatal results. The same rule ap-

plies also to the drinking freely of cold water. A sensation of warmth should always be present when cold water is used.

Cold Bathing.

The benefit resulting from the use of the cold bath, depends upon the reaction succeeding its application. The importance of securing this, is quite too little regarded by those who are seeking relief by this process.

Persons will take baths with much irregularity,—will remain in the water longer than they ought, under the impression that the benefit to be derived is in proportion to the duration of the bath. They thus become chilled, feel drowsy, languid and cold, the system does not readily react, the blood is thrown upon the internal organs, and the pores of the surface contracted.

This state is succeeded by an increased action of the heart, and a fever more or less severe is produced; the innocent cold water being severely blamed for producing such injurious effects.

There are a few practical rules in the use of the bath which should not be disregarded.

The person should feel a comfortable degree of warmth before taking a bath, but never take them when there is high external heat connected with fatigue. Never continue the bath long enough to experience cold chills while using it. Always use friction and exercise after the bath sufficient to cause a "friendly glow" over the whole surface, as on this depends its good effects.

Persons who ride to the bath, should not enter the carriage until this reaction is fully established, which may always be soon produced by friction and exercise, if the bath has not been too long continued.

Early in the morning is the most favorable time for a bath, though some feeble persons may derive the most benefit by waiting until two or three hours after the first meal. Never take a bath immediately after a full meal.

Of the various forms of cold bathing, we usually prefer the shower bath, though the plunge bath is probably as good for a person with a vigorous circulation. On some persons of delicate organization, the shower bath produces a rather unpleasant shock to the nervous system. This will generally disappear after a few daily applications, and may be lessened by previously wetting the face and chest in cold water.

The "shower bath," says M. Mattson, "is decidedly the best and most agreeable way of applying cold water to the body; and it should be done in the morning as soon as the individual is out of bed, or after he has been heated by a brisk walk, or other exercise. Those who are accustomed to the shower bath, consider it their greatest luxury, and continue to use it during the coldest weather of winter. The quantity of water to be employed, must be determined by circumstances. Those who are not very strong or vigorous will be satisfied with a quart, while the robust and plethoric often require two or three gallons. The temperature of the water also, is varied according to indvidual peculiarities. There are some who use it several

degrees below that of ordinary spring water, while others employ it of an almost icy coldness. After the bath, the body should be wiped as speedily as possible, and rubbed with a coarse towel, or flesh brush, which produces a pleasant feeling of warmth.

"The shower bath invigorates the system, strengthens the digestive organs, equalizes the circulation, and enables those who use it to encounter the vicissitudes of heat and cold with but little inconvenience, or risk to health. In the hot weather of summer, it is truly refreshing, as well as beneficial. In many obstinate chronic disorders, it is productive of the greatest advantage. It should never be employed excepting when it has a tendency to invigorate, and is followed by a warm glow of the skin."

The following, we take from a work called "Hydropathy, or Water Cure, compiled by Joel Shew, M. D."

The shower is one of the best forms of bath for daily use, provided an abundance of water can be had. There are many of these used in New York since the introduction of the Croton, and more particularly since the subject of water is of late receiving a greater share of attention. One advantage of the bath of this kind is, that it can be taken so quickly; and then also the constant shower of water is so cleansing and invigorating.

In this, as in every kind of bath, the head should be the part first to commence upon. If the hair is long, it can be guarded by a close oil-cloth, or India rubber cap, but always the face, temples and neck, should first be wet. This prevents the blood from rushing to the head—an objection that has been made to the shower bath. If one is highly sensitive to the impression of cold, the shower will be more bearable, provided loud and continued exclamation be practised while under the bath. The exertion seems to keep the blood outward. Brisk motion, as dancing and jumping, with friction, should be at the same time resorted to, and then the body should be quickly rubbed dry, and exercise be taken, or a weak person can go to a warm bed. The body should be made thoroughly comfortable.

We have known weak invalids who had scarcely ever taken a cold bath, to commence in midwinter with the shower, beginning in the morning immediately on coming from a warm bed, and in the course of a few weeks, such persons have gained an amount of health and strength which, for years, they had not known. Rheumatism, incipient gout, giddiness, indigestion, with its long train of symptoms, and the like, have often in a remarkably short time been removed; and individuals of a pale, sickly and sallow look, have acquired the ruddiness and bloom of youth.

In a few instances, those who were weak and sensitive to cold, have been taken with a sudden neuralgiæ or rheumatic "twinge," but this is oftener than otherwise caused by the bath being continued too long, or the person not keeping up sufficient exercise and friction. This generally passes off at once, and has never, in our

experience, been alarming. Still it should be avoided.

Those who are too feeble, or not conveniently situated to use the shower, will find the sponge or hand bath an excellent substitute; and as they are attended with a very trifling inconvenience, we see no reason why almost every person may not have the benefit and pleasure of a daily cold bath. A.

Is it Right?

On no subject of importance does the community actually possess so little knowledge as on that of medicine. It was necessary that such should be the case; for on no subject are there more appeals to credulity, or a greater demand for the subordination of reason and common sense to the pretensions of art.

The immediate and remote effects of remedies upon the human system, are hardly thought of, aside from the relief momentarily produced. A person will suffer the vital fluid to be drained from him, and the powers of life reduced by poisons, though reason, common sense, and the laws of life are outraged by the process; and all because the physician assures him that this course, so well calculated to kill him when well, is the very thing to cure him when he is sick. The person who would feel himself insulted were you to presume so much upon his good sense on any other subject, meekly bows in submissive ignorance to the absurd demand of his physician, throws away his common sense, marvels at the mysteries of medical science, swallows the poison offered him, and abides the result with about as much intelligence on the subject as a child. A.

Jaundice.

On one of our semi-weekly visits to the Massachusetts Hospital, where we were privileged to pick up the crumbs of medical science dispensed for the benefit of the students and the patients, we saw a girl about 14 years of age, who had a mild, simple form of Jaundice. The professor remarked, that mercury was depended upon for a cure, and he had ordered it until it produced salivation. This took place in a few days, and as it became quite severe, and the patient assumed a pale, haggard countenance, with nervous irritation, it was discontinued for a few days, and again resumed to effect a like disturbance in the system. In some more than a fortnight, the patient was discharged. So it seems that, in order to cure a simple case of Jaundice, it is necessary to produce a sore mouth, loosen the teeth, derange the circulation, debilitate the stomach and bowels, shatter the nervous system, &c. This is the old school practice in its purity, directed by a professor. What a beautiful, life-giving, health-restoring system it must be!

Where is the unprejudiced person, possessing any degree of reflection, who believe it necessary to go through such a disease creating process,—to inflict such serious injury upon the present and future health, in order to cure a simple case of Jaundice, which, without doubt, would have been re-

moved by the unaided efforts of nature, without any impairment of the constitution.

The two years next succeeding, we had many similar cases, in most of which the obstruction was removed in from 12 to 48 hours, and that too without producing a worse disease than the one we attempted to remove.—And yet, say the wise ones, the former is according to science, and the latter is quackery. What stupid nonsense!

And what a curse is such a system of practice to those who have to endure it! A.

Opinions of the Learned.

Dr. Waterhouse, for twenty years professor of the theory and practice of medicine, in the University of Cambridge, Mass., regarded in Europe as a philosopher, and a member of many distinguished societies, in a letter to Dr. Samuel Thomson, writes thus: "I remain firm in the opinion that you were the discoverer of the remarbable medical virtues of the Lobelia Inflata; that yourself were the originator of the compound process, very extensively known under the title of the Thomsonian practice or system. I mean the uniting the vapor bath with the cleansing of the whole alimentary canal.

"I value it on this account. It effects in three or four days, what regular physicians used to occupy as many weeks to accomplish. Your discovery is highly valuable, and on this account it was that I spoke so freely and strongly in commendation of the new practice, and was not ashamed to hail you as a REFORMER.

Again, in a letter to Dr. John Thomson, he writes thus: "Had not the theory and practice of your father been founded in Truth and Nature, it could not have maintained its reputation thus far, but would, long since, have been swept into nonentity. Yet amidst opposition, and even persecution. Dr. Samuel Thomson has had the solid satisfaction of knowing that time has increased his reputation, and imparted firmness to a practice hitherto unheard of among us. I pronounce him A PUBLIC BENEFACTOR."

Thomas Hersey, for forty years a regular practitioner,—surgeon in the United States army during the last war, elected surgeon extraordinary to the Petersburg Volunteers and Major Stodard's Artillery, one of the founders of the Western Medical Society of Pennsylvania, and lastly, a distinguished Thomsonian author and editor, in a letter to Dr. John Thomson, writes thus:—

"My practice has been extensive—my experience and opportunity for observation has seldom been exceeded; but I venture to pledge myself upon all I hold sacred in the profession, that in my estimation the discoveries of your honored father have a decided preference, and stand UNRIVALLED by all that bears the stamp of ANCIENT or MODERN skill!" T. F. DODGE.

[From the Water Cure Journal.]

Vapor Baths.

The Thomsonians, or "steam doctors," as they are sometimes called, have been unmercifully and ignorantly vilified by many whose ignorance in certain cases superseded that of the ignorant ones among the "steamers," in proportion as it was more "scientific." Who does not know that the Thomsonian has often relieved patients in a most remarkable manner, when the "scientific" practitioner was compelled to "give up." A good vapor-bath, and a thorough cleansing of the skin, will often cause such speedy relief, that it is reckoned an accident rather than otherwise that relief is obtained. The remedy appears too simple to cause any marked result.

Physicians generally seem to think it a thing of little consequence to pay any regard to the skin. Day after day, week after week, and month after month, patients are allowed to lay suffering for want of a cleansing of the skin; and in cases, too, where such a cleansing of the skin would cause more sudden relief than any thing else that can be done. We knew a physician of very extensive practice who had under treatment a person with obstinate fever. After having done his utmost without any good success, he thought he would try vapor "to get up an action," as it was called, and to do this some common barrel hoops were cut in two, and the half hoops were placed over the patient in bed to elevate the clothes, and then by hot stones or bricks wound in wet cloths, placed under the bedding thus elevated, a genial pleasant vapor was caused all about the body, and thus, by this simple means, the patient was at once greatly benefitted. It was just the thing needed. The patient rapidly recovered.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," as poor Richard says.

"But," says the parboiled man, "I tried the shower bath one morning, and the cold shock was so great that I could not think of subjecting myself to it every day—once was enough."

"Ah," said an ill-trained urchin, while undergoing the operation of hair-combing, "How upon arth can folks comb their heads every day; I don't comb mine but once a month, and then it almost kills me.

Just so. Take your shower-bath every morning, as you comb your hair, and the operation will be luxury instead of woe; the doctor will give place to the butcher, and life be lightened of a thousand ills.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.
ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.
Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.
ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.
[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the disease.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,
Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

Peirce Academy

WILL commence its Fall Session of 16 weeks, MONDAY, July 27th. Pupils admitted at any time during the session, but not for a less period than 8 weeks.

Tuition, for the Higher English Branches and Languages at the rate of $5,00 per quarter of 11 weeks.

Common English Branches, $4,00 do. do.
Drawing and Painting, extra, $2,00 for 14 weeks.
Board, including washing, for Gentlemen, $1,75 per week.
" " " " Ladies, $1,50 " "

Middleborough, Aug. 1, 1846. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y.—5t9

A. J. WAKEFIELD,
BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,
FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

T. W. WOOD, A. M.
BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.
No. 18, Central st., Boston, Ms.

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, SEPTEMBER 1, 1846. NO. 8.

A Fact.

Some years ago, before there was any Botanic Physician in this vicinity, a young man, residing a few miles from this place, was severely attacked with billious fever. In order to satisfy some of the friends, a physician was called in, who pronounced it a very critical case, and after giving ample evidence of his professional erudition, left two kinds of powders, one of which was composed of calomel and opium. After his departure, the lady of the house, took an opportunity to throw out the medicine left, and put a little chalk and rhubarb in its place. She then gave herb teas, applied steaming stones, &c., to produce perspiration, and when the time came round for the Doctor's medicine, she gave the chalk powder, in order that any of the curious present, might know that his directions were strictly followed.

At the next visit, the M. D. found his patient in a more favorable state,—thought he might recover, but that the fever would not turn until the expiration of the third week. The same medicine was left, and the same treatment by the old lady continued.

On his third visit, he found his patient still improving, and strongly congratulated him on the admirable and unusual benefit derived from his powders, and directed their continuance.

In about ten days the patient was free from fever, to the great surprise of the physician, who seemed really wonder struck at the speedy termination of the disease, but attributed it all to his calomel, opium, nitre, &c.; when the patient had not taken a particle of the medicine left, but had relied entirely upon such innocent vegetable preparations as seemed best calculated to aid the system and removing the disease.

A few years after this successful deception, the physician was recommending his powders to a patient, and referred to the above case in the presence of one who was acquainted with the facts, and who then informed him of the course there pursued. The Doctor, after recovering from his astonishment, very learnedly and modestly declared, that the person who did that, "ought to have her head cut off." Such was the reward proposed for what proved to be superior medical skill. The above facts are strictly true, and the family are now living in this place.

They prove to us the inefficacy, the worse than uselessness, of the Allopathic practice; and that the most simple herbs properly administered, are worth more than all the experience and prescriptions of the most skillful medical poisoner. A.

Messrs Editors:—Will you be so good as to give us, through your columns, the Botanic treatment of measles? Did either of you, Messrs. Editors, ever know the remedies employed by the Botanics, for measles, to cause inflammation of the bowels? Do you make use of remedies that are, in any case, calculated to give rise to inflammation of the bowels? The reasons for putting these questions, are, twofold. First; we desire all the information we can obtain in relation to the treatment of diseases. And, secondly; a case of the measles was recently treated by the old school, mineral physicians, in which the medicine (?) used for the *avowed* purpose of bringing out the measles, *caused* inflammation of the bowels. You may be perhaps inclined to doubt the assertion, that the *means used*, gave rise to the inflammation of the bowels. It will probably be sufficiently to establish this point, to say, that one of the physicians stated, in a public place that the means used, *did* cause the inflammation of the bowels.

By answering these questions, you will oblige

Several Subscribers.

[In answer to the above communication of Several Subscribers, we reply:

In order to make our statement of the treatment more easily understood, it may be best to make some preliminary observations.

That the measles are contagious, is, we believe, the opinion of all writers, so far as our reading has extended. The poison is imbibed into the system, and unless expelled, will cause—death. Nature rallies as much force as is necessary (if the system possesses that much) to throw it off. If she succeeds in the effort, the body returns to health. If she, however, through a deficiency of power, and the absence of proper artificial aid, fails of dislodging the contagion, death must ensue.

Keeping in view the pathology of the measles, we now pass to notice the treatment.

It appears that the intention of the fever—of the cough and hoarseness—of the discharge from the eyes and the nostrils—is to throw out from the system the contagious matter, and some of its injurious effects. Frequently it is the case that the energy of the system is sufficient to throw out the eruption without any aid whatever. But whenever this is not the case, then it becomes our duty to assist her in her efforts.

We give diaphoretics, or medicines calculated to produce sweating, together with relaxants, to open the pores of the skin, and allow the eruption to pass out. Should the poison settle upon the lungs, giving rise to hoarseness and cough, we then give such medicines as will relax the tubes and cells, and allow of the escape of the phlegm, which collects in those parts. Should the stomach and liver be effected, an emetic should be exhibited. "This," says Prof. Worthy, "is always useful in this form of disease, and particularly on its inception. If the case is

of an obstinate character, the vapor bath is indispensable. Our attention should be directed, particularly, to keeping the skin moist, which can be done by the use of diaphoretic teas, and occasionally the bark." "Should the case be formidable, attended with coughing, difficult, anxious, or laborious respiration, the treatment must be accordingly; courses of medicine and our best expectorants must be put in requisition.—When the eruption disappears before the proper time, and great anxiety, and delirium, or convulsions supervene, emetics of lobelia should be resorted to without delay, and the best diffusive stimulants."

We have thus, we believe, answered "Several Subscribers," as to the treatment. Will either of them furnish as frank and open a description of the treatment to which the patient alluded to, was subjected? Is it a character of truth or error, to seek *darkness*?

As it regards the second query, we answer without any hesitation, that no physician in any case, acting upon the principles of the reformed, or Botanic practice, ever cured inflammation in the bowels, *or any portion of the human system.* That is a result *never* following their practice for *any* disease. In the case alluded to, the patient, undoubtedly, had taken purgatives. These, no physician of the Botanic order, would think of ordering, for the measles. "In the old school practice, where physic is exhibited, for the measles," says Dr. Mattson, "the measles are apt to be followed by consumption, dropsy, *inflammation* of the lungs, and other equally dangerous diseases. Says Dr. Eberle, a distinguished physician of the old school, when speaking upon the administration of purgatives, "the patient experiences tenderness in the abdomen—the pains and diarrhæal discharges continue,—in short, he HAS DEVELOPED *inflammation*, which the most judicious management may not be able to remove."

Perhaps there is scarcely any opinion more universal, than that physic, in the treatment of the measles, exerts a most deadly influence. Almost every neighborhood can furnish one instance, or more, of its pernicious effects. Yet should a Botanic Physician be guilty of equal malpractice, the land would be aroused through its whole extent. In the one case "it is a shocking murder by "lobelia and steam;" in the other, "it is an act of Divine Providence." "Strange such a difference there should be," &c. W.]

CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS.—The following singular means of curing habitual drunkenness is employed by a Russian Physician. It consists in confining the drunkard in a room, and furnishing him, at discretion, with brandy diluted with two-thirds of water; as much wine, beer and coffee as he desires, but containing one-third of brandy; and the food, the bread, meat, &c., are steeped in brandy and water. On the fifth day of this regimen he has an extreme disgust for brandy, and earnestly requests other diet; but his desires must not be yielded to, until the poor fellow no longer

desires to eat or drink. He is then certainly cured of his penchant for drunkenness. He acquires such a disgust for brandy, that he is ready to vomit at the very sight of it!

Lobelia.

We commend the following article to the candid and attentive perusal of our readers. It shows in a plain and truthful manner, the operation of Lobelia upon the human system, as proved by the experience of thousands.

The professional twaddle about its being a poison, a narcotic and cathartic, &c., resulting from ignorance and prejudice, is a disgrace to those who resort to it, and must lower them in the estimation of all sensible and intelligent persons. A.

Extract from Prof. Curtis's Lectures.—"The principal effect of Lobelia being to relax the tissues, it is evident that it should be used internally, and locally if possible, in all cases of fits, cramp, spasms, lockjaw, contracted sinews, stricture or rigidity of muscular structures; and in all cases of morbid tonicity of the tissues, as in burning fevers, internal inflamations, &c. No means or processes ever discovered, are capable of producing a greater degree of relaxation of organic fibre, and yet nothing that can relax at all is less injurious to the constitution."

The true therapeutic action of Lobelia, I think, is not generally understood. Most persons are under the impression that it is the principal agent in producing the action which we call vomiting.—But this must certainly be incorrect. All practitioners, regular and irregular, who habitually use it, agree that its effect is antispasmodic, as it instantly relieves spasms, fits, lockjaw, cramp, &c., and relaxes contracted sinews. But it is also agreed that vomiting is produced by muscular contraction, either of the chest, abdomen or stomach, or all combined. If this were the effect of the irritation produced by lobelia, that article would not be, as it certainly is, a sovereign remedy for spasms. But one will say, 'How do you know that lobelia does not, like cayenne, produce alternate relaxation and contraction, perhaps by different properties contained in it, that act at different points of time? I answer, I know it by the fact that the more vitality in the system the less the relaxation the more speedy and effectual the vomiting after taking lobelia; and that, on the other hand, the less vitality in the system the greater is the relaxation and the feebler the re-action; and further, when there is little vitality, as when the patient is dying, there is no re-action at all. In what are called the 'alarming symptoms,' there is so little vitality that the relaxing power of lobelia completely overcomes the re-acting power, and the only reason why death does not take place, is because lobelia does not injure the organs by destroying the feeling, or stopping the circulation, but

only overcomes in a greater or less degree during the period of its own influence the disposition to re-action. The nearer the re-acting power of the system is to an equality with the relaxing power of the lobelia, the greater will be the struggle and alarm. As the effort of the system is now to recover its tone, giving cayenne will aid in producing the re-action that constitutes the vomiting, which if free always relieves the patient. Giving more lobelia throws the scale the other way, and makes him quiet a while longer.—Letting him entirely alone, the lobelia after some time loses its powder to act, and then the re-active energy of the system meets with no resistance, and recovers the condition of its organs as a matter of course. When there is no disease, that is, debility of the organs, the lobelia has not power to relax the system much, and hence there is no room for any remarkable degree of re-action, and of course there is little or no vomiting. 'But,' says one, 'are you sure that lobelia possesses no other control over the living body than simply to relax its several organs?' I answer—not quite sure; but I am perfectly convinced that if it have fifty other influences, this one of relaxation so far predominates over them all, as to throw them entirely into the shade. 'But is not lobelia a sudorific?' Yes; but its mode of producing this effect is by *relaxing* through the nervous action the contracted mouths of the emunctories or pores of the skin, and letting off the portion of the blood called perspiration. It also promotes the secretion of bile and urine, by relaxing vessels whose unnatural constriction is the cause of the retention of these fluids.

The object in giving here these facts, arguments and illustrations of the modus operandi of lobelia, is to establish the point that LOBELIA *is to be considered at all times, and under all circumstances, and wherever applied, not only a pure relaxant, but the most powerful and innocent yet known.* I wish this point to be well settled; for, if it be true, it at once puts to flight, from obstetrics, the use of instruments, and even manual force, in every case except perhaps the very few patients whose pelves are known to be remarkably deformed by rickets or some other unfortunate circumstance.

Giving more lobelia during the alarm produced by a course will check the struggle of the system for a while, yet it rather prolongs the duration of the condition. Sweet milk or sweet oil will, by combining with it, check the action of what is already taken, and a dose of cayenne will aid the vital energies in producing the reaction or vomit which puts an end to the whole transaction. When lobelia cannot be had, other articles known to act like it must be used in its stead. Thoroughwort is an excellent article, but it is not, like lobelia, a pure relaxant. The therapeutic principle of a true emetic must be speed in relaxation, great volatility, and incapacity to injure the vitality of the organs on which it operates.—Such is that of lobelia. It is like the power that pulls a bow string;

it strains the bow quickly, and as suddenly lets it go; thus allowing it to recover its condition without injury to the elasticity. Did it act slowly, the tone of the system would gradually give way to it, and suffer the encroachment to proceed without an effort at re-action. Did it not cease to act suddenly, the re-action of the system would also be gradual, and would produce no vomit. Did it continue its power over the organs a great length of time, they, like the long-bent bow, would lose their elasticity altogether. Such are poisonous relaxants. They either break the bow at once by over-straining, or they relax it so gradually as to excite little or no resistance, (as tyrants fasten their chains on their subjects,) or else they retain their possession till all the re-acting power is destroyed.

The emetic effect of antimony, copper and zinc, is the resistance the system makes to their introduction into it, as its greatest enemies to healthy action. They threaten 'suddenly and rapidly to extinguish the vitality of the system,' in exact proportion to the quantity given."

Dreadful Neglect—Unparalleled Barbarity in Boston.

A poor Irishwoman, Mrs. Mahoney, who resided at the corner of Kingston and Tyler streets, was *enciente*. To assist in the delivery of the child, Dr. J. M. P. was called in, professionally, being a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. When he first saw the woman she was in labor. The child presented itself feet foremost. The Dr. did not take the usual measures for relief—on the contrary, he went to breakfast, leaving the poor woman to her peril. In an hour he returned, and commenced by manual force to extract the child. He used no instruments. He took hold of the feet and body, and dragged so forcibly that he separated the body from the head, leaving the head behind. He gave it up as a bad job, and left the house. Dr. C., an eminent M. D., also a distinguished member of the M. M. Society, was called in, but sent for and examined Dr. P. who was afraid to expose his butchery, and omitted to inform D. C. that he had left the head undelivered. Dr. C. agreed with Dr. P. that nothing could be done, and left the house. Twenty-six hours afterwards Dr. C. was passing the house, and as he was told that the woman was not dead, he went in to see her; and must have been horrified at learning what Dr. P. had concealed; and he immediately, by the use of forceps, but with great ease removed the head without injury to the woman by so doing. Owing to the murderous treatment she had received she died the next day. The neighborhood became exasperated, and an attempt was made to bring the criminal brute before the legal authorities; but the Medical Society was too powerful in influence, and a successful attempt was made to conceal this barbarous deed. The Society succeeded, too, in keeping the newspapers of Boston silent, for not one line in relation to it has yet appeared. To-day, the husband

of the deceased, Dennis Mahoney, presented his complaint before the grand jury, with the witnesses, and it is believed that the Medical Society will no longer be able to screen their brother M. D., by corrupting the halls of justice. We are informed, on good authority, that these M. D's allow their greenest students to make experiments on all the "low Irish," as these barbarians call them; and there is no doubt that many women and children have been scientifically murdered by these learned butchers. The excitement among the Irish people, who have heard the facts, is intense and cannot be smothered.—*N. Y. Herald.*

[From the Independent Botanic Advocate.]

Interesting Case.

About eight years since, a young man aged 17, then living with me, drank by accident a quantity of the oil of vitriol, supposing it to be water. Finding his mistake, he fled to the water and drank freely. Being absent from home myself, Dr. Stevens, a Botanic, was called, and immediately gave an emetic of lobelia, it being then about half an hour after the vitriol had done all its mischief. The next day he began to discharge from the mouth saliva, in large quantities, from three quarts to a gallon a day.

This salivary collection would also accumulate in the stomach, when the pain would be excruciating. When the severe pain come on, I gave the 3d prep., sufficient to vomit freely, which would invariably give relief: but this I had to resort to every three or four hours for two days and nights. At length the entire coat or membrane of the tongue and stomach came off—leaving, of course, the tongue and stomach perfectly raw or bare, so far as the mucous membrane is concerned. It was very difficult for him to receive nourishment; but, by the use of composition and restorative bitters, in a few days he entirely recovered. The neighbors and M. D's. said there never was a case of the kind that lived or recovered.

Westport, Fairfield co., Ct. STREET H. KEELER.

Surgical Operation.—The operation of Lithotomy was performed on the 9th inst. on Mr. John Carder, of Warwick, by Dr. Usher Parsons, of Providence. The stone removed from the bladder measures *five inches* in circumference. The patient, who is seventy-four years of age, bore the operation with great fortitude, and is already nearly recovered from it, as well as from the previous sufferings which had afflicted him for many years.

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.
ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.
[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the disease.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,
Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

Peirce Academy

WILL commence its Fall Session of 16 weeks, MONDAY, July 27th. Pupils admitted at any time during the session, but not for a less period than 8 weeks.

Tuition, for the Higher English Branches and Languages at the rate of $5,00 per quarter of 11 weeks.

Common English Branches, $4,00 do. do.

Drawing and Painting, extra, $2,00 for 14 weeks.

Board, including washing, for Gentlemen, $1,75 per week.

" " " " Ladies, $1,50 " "

Middleborough, Aug. 1, 1846. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y.—5t9

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

Almy & Milne, Printers, Weekly News Office, Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, SEPTEMBER 15, 1846. NO. 9.

Medical Science.

That the Allopathic practice of medicine is a curse to the people, that its general tendency is to undermine the constitution, shorten life and multiply the forms of disease, is a truth of which any intelligent, unprejudiced observer may soon become satisfied. The practitioners have no settled principles upon which to base an intelligent practice; one clings to a certain dogma, and another to an opposite one, neither of them having the pleasing consciousness that they are right, and the result of their practice teaches us that both are powerless in the removal of disease. Being almost entirely ignorant of the power of those safe and efficacious remedies which assist the efforts of nature, they look to poisons and destructive means for an antidote, which too often proves a bane to their patients; and thus they violate the laws of the animal economy, cut themselves adrift from every true principle by which to direct their practice, throw themselves upon the quicksands of quackery, and into the degrading labyrinth of specific medicines, each having a peculiar action, they know not what, and at last perhaps a cure effected, they know not how. We are aware that many of them have studied much, have an excellent knowledge of Anatomy, &c., but what are the practical results of all their learning? where are their great achievements in the removal of disease, corresponding with their boasted acquisition of knowledge? We look in vain for any such triumph. There have been "splendid improvements," it is said, in the popular healing art, "but, says one of their number, "it does not appear that the mortality of disease has been much diminished. In fact, we find that those diseases which were commonly fatal in the hands of the physicians a century ago, present nearly the same proportional terminations at the present day." A man may study Anatomy for an age, and learn the morbid effects of disease, its various grades and types, and shades, even so as to make a learned distinction between "the south and southwest side of a hair," and yet be a much worse practitioner, than some old lady who is as ignorant of anatomy, as most physicians are of the *modus operandi* of many of their own medicines.—

We do not wish to be understood as denying any importance to anatomical knowledge, it is a necessary part of an intelligent medical education, but it cannot impart to us any instruction with regard to the remedies proper for the removal of disease. Experience upon the living subject alone can teach us this, and if people were more disposed to make the *result of a physician's practice* a test of his medical skill, instead of his profound knowledge of words, it would have a tendency to banish much quackery and deception now palmed off upon them by those who arrogate to themselves an exclusive knowledge of medical science.

To a person who, like ourself, has seen those he loved possessing vigorous constitutions, cut down in manhood's prime, following each other in quick succession to the abode of the dead, without any malignant appearances in the disease, and receiving the unremitting attention of the then supposed most skillful physicians,—to such an one, how disgusting appear these high pretensions to medical knowledge, what assumption and quackery is manifested from whichever point it is viewed:—a species of quackery too, that not only unloses our purse strings by appeals to our marvelousness, but it blasts our fondest hopes, when we might reasonably expect them to be realized, and lacerates our very heart strings from the evidence afforded, that the medicine given to aid the cure, but served to assist disease to perform its deadly work. It is poor consolation to such to be told, that those physicians have studied much and talk learnedly, their acts prove them to be the veriest quacks, pretending to knowledge which they do not possess, using poisons which destroy vitality, when they should give medicine to assist the vital power in removing the disease. A.

Cases.

No. 1.—Was that of a gentleman at work in Pennsylvania. While there, he was seized with inflammatory rheumatism. He immediately left for this place. He had a very tedious journey some part of the distance, not sleeping any part of the time.

On arriving here, the writer was called. He found him quite sick.—Pulse at 120. Pain in all the limbs and neck; very severe. Limbs quite badly swollen. The functions of the kidneys ver y badly deranged. Total absence of sleep for four days.

First ordered vapor bath. Then bathed all the parts diseased with stimulating liniment. Ordered frequent draughts of the stimulating tea, as well as enemata and nervines.

The next day found the fever a little less, and pain somewhat abated.—Gave the same medicines, with the addition of lobelia, in nauseating doses.

In the course of the following night, was called in great haste, as the patient was supposed to be dying. I went as soon as possible. Found him unable to speak intelligibly, and suffering under almost intolerable pain.—The disease had left his limbs, almost entirely, and seized upon his stomach and bowels. The latter were very hard and knotted; so much so as to give the abdomen a very singular appearance. The stomach was in a state of collapse, and excrutiatingly painful. There was also a total suppression of urine.

I prepared, as soon as possible, an enemata of bayberry, nervine, and anti-spasmodic tincture. This relaxed the bowels immediately, and aroused the system generally, so as to allow him to converse as soon as it had operated. I then gave one table spoonful of the anti-spasmodic tincture to the stomach. This very soon produced copious vomiting, and he threw off one large *table spoonful of pulverized* BLACK LEAD. After the sickness had subsided, gave large and frequent doses of nervine. This soon tranquilized

the nervous system sufficiently to allow him easy sleep—the first for five days.

In the morning carried him through a course. This discharged quite a quantity of black lead from the bowels and stomach. Then ordered poultices, made of indian meal and green lobelia, moistened by a strong decoction of broomweed, to all the painful and swollen parts. Also ordered sudorifics to keep up a constant perspiration. This very rapidly reduced the fever, pain and swelling, and soon threw off the entire disease.

No. 2.—Was that of a young man who had been out of health four months. For two months previous to the writer being called, he was in the hands of an old school physician of this town. Under his prescriptions he failed quite rapidly. At length he became dissatisfied with the treatment. The principal difficulty in this place seemed to be foul and weak stomach; which had given rise to general debility, together with obstinate costiveness, and a slight disease of the liver. The stomach was in such a state that whatever nourishment he passed into it, soured, and produced distress. In this state his physician had ordered him to *diet on bread and milk!*

Commenced his treatment by ordering frequent enemata of stimulants and nervines to the bowels. Gave stimulants, nervines, and tonics to the stomach. After following this course of treatment for two days, gave an emetic. Then resumed the same treatment, and continued it a week, when the emetic was repeated.

He then resumed the course of stimulants, tonics, nervines, and enemata for one week longer, when he declared he was entirely restored. He is now engaged in the most severe and laborious employment. W.

Poisoning.—There is a story in circulation, to the effect that, a girl in this village was poisoned by medicine given for the purpose of curing her. We have not learned all the particulars, but presume there may be some truth in the story, as she was successively under the care of two or three Mineralites. We are quite certain that the Botanic medicines are not poisonous, and of course she could not be materially injured by their administration. A.

Correction.—The last No. of the "Enquirer" was issued in our absence, which is our apology for some mistakes and republishing which it contains. Though the Printers are pretty good Botanics, they caused Dr. Wood to make quite a mortifying confession; but by inserting "caused" for "cured," in the 16th line from the top of page 59, the article will read as the writer intended it should, and much more in accordance with truth, and to the credit of the Botanic practice. A.

That the fashionable plan of treating disease is a sin of mountain height, must be apparent to every one who will give himself a moment's serious reflection on the nature of its results.

[From the Nantucket Inquirer.]

Treatment of Pleurisy.

"Facts are chiels that wina ding,
An' downa be disputed,"—[BURNS.

The New York Surgical and Medical Reporter gives in No. 23, commencing at page 357, Dr. and Professor Swett's advice how to treat pleurisy, as follows:—In simple, mild cases, one or two venesections, followed by cupping or leeching, purgatives and low diet, with rest; other judicious practitioners also make use of blisters and diuretics, as nitrate of potass, hydriodate of potass, digitatis, diuretic decoctions, etc. In severe cases as soon as the constitutional symptoms are somewhat abated by venesection and other means, administer mercury more or less freely, until the gums are touched. If hectic should come on, the patient's strengh should be supported, by nutritious diet, even quinine, wine, etc. If the patient has not been already mercuralized, and is strong enough to bear it, he must be put upon the mercurial course of Dr. Hope's plan, according to which he cured 35 cases. Others have been successful with the preparation of iodine. Dr. Stokes cured 20 cases in this way, but both used blisters too. The proper way of Dr. Swett is, to give the protoiodide of mercury with opium, and in conjunction with it the hydriodate of potass,—at the same time using blisters, dressed with the hydriodate ointment, or rubbed into the side. If potass would not produce sweat, he would resort to diuretics, etc. Under any plan of treatment, however, he fears the doctor may be frequently foiled. Then the opening of the chest must be resorted to, for both pathological, and practical reasons, to remove the puss which may have been formed. The chest should be perforated between the fifth and sixth ribs, or lower down, if the fluctation of pus can be felt. An incision is to be made an inch in length, and an exploring needle passed into the chest 'in all cases.' That will not do any harm, and is attended with very little pain. If the needle discovers pus, then it is proper to continue the operation, but if there is a solid tumor, we can pause rather.

A very sharp double-edged scalpel or an abscess lancet is the best instrument. Let the pus run out so long as no air enters the chest. Simple, loose dressings to receive the matter that may flow from the wound, a nutritious diet with tonics, (porter, brandy, gin?) fresh air to support the strength, opiates to relieve irritation and procure sleep are the indications of after treatment."

We extracr this case, and pass over the report of cures of pimples in the face, by Dr. Hunt in England with arsenic which he gives thrice a day together with the meals, also over the "Editorial Department," where Homœpathy and Hydropathy, are honored with the names of humbuggery, delusions, schemes for penny catching, &c.

This "Reporter" is sent gratis to the people here. We also get a copy, and to show our thankfulness for this favor we have prepared the above extract for the benefit of those who should not have been honored with a copy, and in the intended interests of the said "Reporter." M. R.

[From the Water-Cure, Journal.]

Cold Water Song.

By Mrs. A. C. Judson.

All hail to pure cold water,
That bright rich gem from heaven;
And praise to the Creator,
For such a blessing given!
And since it comes in fulness,
We'll prize it yet the more;
For life, and health, and gladness
It spreads the wide earth o'er.

The rill that from the mountain
Comes gaily rippling by,
The river, and the fountain,
All yield a rich supply;
And summer's genial shower
Pours forth the treasure free,
Which makes each bud and flower
Smile, as in conscious glee.

Cold water, thou art healthful,
And Nature's simple cure;
Possess'd of nought that's baneful,—
A beverage most pure:
Refreshed by thee, when weary,
The traveller gains repose;
Thou mak'st the desert dreary
To blossom as the rose.

There's beauty all about thee;
Thy motion to the ear
Is music sweet;—without thee
How sad were earth,—how drear!
Then hail to pure cold water,
That bright rich gem from heaven;
And praise to the Creator,
For such a blessing given.

Buffalo, Aug. 6th, 1846.

Nature is the friend of man—not his enemy. In her efforts to promote or restore health, it is hardly consistent to suppose she would call to her aid, agents inimical to human life—agents which, instead of strengthening and sustaining the system, and restoring healthy action, are directly calculated, like poisons and the lancet, to reduce and prostrate it, and impart to it the seeds of corruption and destroy its action. How much more consistent that she should employ agents calculated to repair the waste disease is making, to recruit her energies, to give to herself full play, rather to drive the one enemy from his stronghold, than to introduce a dozen in his place.

True Pleasure Defined.

We are affected with delightful sensations, when we see the inanimate parts of the creation, the meadows, flowers, and trees, in a flourishing state. There must be some rooted melancholy at the heart, when all nature appears smiling upon us, to hinder us from corresponding with the rest of the creation, and joining in the universal chorus of joy. But if meadows and trees in their cheerful verdure, if flowers in their bloom, and all the vegetable parts of the creation, in their most advantageous dress, can inspire gladness into the heart, and drive away all sadness but despair; to see the rational creature happy, and flourishing, ought to give us a pleasure as much superior, as the latter is to the former, in the scale of being. But the pleasure is still brightened, if we ourselves have been instrumental in contributing to the happiness of our fellow-creatures, if we have helped to raise a heart, drooping beneath the weight of grief, and revived that barren and dry land, where no water was, with refreshing showers of love and kindness.

The Bot. Med. College of Cincinnati.

This spacious college building will soon be completed, and set in order for the reception of students. It has a hall for public lectures that will hold more than a thousand persons; one chemical, one anatomical and surgical, and one general lecture room, that will hold three hundred persons each, besides rooms for museum, apparatus, dissection, &c. It will be well supplied with professors, and the prospect for a much larger class than heretofore, is very encouraging. Our friends, and the friends of medical reform of every stripe, will find it to their interest to furnish us liberally with the raw material, as we are determined not to be excelled, if equalled, in the quality of our fabrics.—*B. M. Recorder.*

Singular and Distressing Affliction.

The family of Truman Judson, at Woodbury, Conn., consisting of nine members, have all been sick with a malignant form of typhus fever. Out of this number five have died—the father and mother, one son and two daughters. It has been remarkable that the sickness has been confined exclusively to this house, although apparently of most malignant character, and for weeks there have been from four to six watchers day and night, no other person in the town has taken the disease. But the most peculiar fact is, that just twenty-one years ago this same sickness appeared in the family of the mother of this household, which family, as this was composed of nine members, and out of these nine, the number as now, five were carried to their graves. As now, no other person of the town then took the fever.

USE OF OPIUM.—It has been estimated that 15,000 of our United States population are already addicted to the daily use of opium, either to give them strength to perform common or extraordinary labors, or to secure a temporary alleviation of chronic suffering or pain. This estimate does not include those persons who are under the care of physicians, and who may be using some of the forms of this medicine so often prescribed; nor those still more unfortunate persons who are enslaved to a quack medication which embraces it. Nor does it include the thousands and tens of thousands of infants to whom mothers are administering more or less frequently—sometimes almost or quite every day—poppy water, elixir paregoric, laudanum or black drop, preparations whose efficacy, as is well known, is derived from the opium they contain—some of them in very large quantity. Perhaps it would not be too much to say, that at least 100,000 of the inhabitants of the United States are so much addicted to the use of this drug, that there systems are never wholly free from its deleterious influence.—*Library of Health.*

ARSENIC.—Fears have been sometimes entertained by families who use arsenic to destroy rats and mice, that these animals, after having gnawed the bait set for them, and before they become sick with it, might knaw our articles of food, and thus communicate the poison. We do not know whether there is much danger from this source or not.

But there is one use of this substance in modern housewifery, or at least by those who keep dairies, which is exceedingly dangerous, and cannot be too much condemned. It is in the preparation of cheese. We have it on good authority, that part of the cheese in Worcester county, Mass., is prepared in this manner.

Arsenic is used in cheese to give to the curds the appearance of having been formed of new milk, when it is not so. It imparts a tenderness and freshness—real or imaginary--which tempts too much the cupidity of our people, to be effectually resisted.

I am firmly persuaded as to the health of our bodies, herbs and fruits will sustain nature in every respect, far beyond the best flesh. If these had still been the food of man, he would not have contracted so many diseases in his body, or cruel vices in his soul.

The taste of most sorts of flesh is disagreeable to those who for any time abstain from it, and none can be competent judges of what I say, but those who have made trial of it.—[*John Howard.*

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers, Ribbons, Laces, &c.
ALSO—All other kinds of Goods kept in the country, which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices.
ETHAN EARLE.
Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils. &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.

ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.

[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the disease.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, OCTOBER 1, 1846. NO. 10.

An Interesting Fact.

A gentleman in this town had a child—a girl two years old—who had been afflicted from her infancy, with a very bad humor. Her skin, was also dry and harsh, and the only food that would satisfy the appetite, was meat, with gravies.

After trying many different remedies, he was induced to obtain a small dog. This animal was allowed to play and sleep with her, and was the greatest portion of the time with her.

Some six weeks after the dog was procured, the humor on the child disappeared entirely—the skin became moist and smooth, and to appearance the disease had wholly left the system.

As the disease disappeared from the child, the dog as nearly as could be judged, became affected with the same complaint; and in a short time died. The child remained free from the disease some six months. It then became affected again. Another dog was procured. This soon became affected in the same manner as the first; while the child began to improve. The dog continued to grow worse, and the child better, as long as they were together. Being unwilling to destroy the dog, the father of the child separated them. Immediately thereupon the dog recruited, while the child became worse. The father, thinks the first dog saved the child's life.

We have often heard of instances, similar to the above, but never have known any, personally. In this case, the parties are well known to the writer, and most of the facts occurred under his immediate notice. W.

FACT NO. II.

We have just retured from giving an emetic. The patient has not taken any for the last 30 years. The last one he took, two of the old school physicians in this town administered. They gave as much as they dared to give, which threw the patient into insufferable agony; but produced no vomiting. Some time previous to the one last mentioned, he took one from the same class of physicians. He received no benefit however, as no vomiting of any amount was produced.

As soon as it was known, that he had determined to try the virtues of that *dreadfal "poison!"* lobelia; he was besieged with the foes of the reformed practice; and with any quantity of long faces, told "that it

whuld just as sure kill him as he took it." But said he. "I noticed one thing, all that know any thing abont your practice, like it. That encouraged me to go on."

The emetic operated favorably. He vomited freely without any distress whatever. And said; "for the first time, for a long while, he could breath freely." What a pity the croakers were false phrophets!

W.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

A gentleman told us to-day, that he had saved *one* doctor's bill, in consequence of taking the "Enquirer." His wife had had a regular fever, and doctored herself without any aid from a physician. Cheap way of paying doctor's bills! Only fifty cents on perhaps the ten dollars! Being a farmer, he raised his own medicine, and saved his wife's system, from being poisoned, with calomel. A good result considering it was the first time. W.

[For the Medical Enquirer.]

Messrs Editors:—I *am* puzzled. Can you assist me? I have read an article in No. 8. of the Enquirer signed "Several Subscribers."

According to them, in the case of the measles, alluded to, the doctor in attendance, was so honest as to acknowledge, "that the medicine, that had been administered to bring out the measles, gave rise to inflammation of the bowels."

Here is my trouble. Would either of you, give medicine to bring out measles; *if you saw* no *symptoms of the measles?* (1) The physician that made the acknowledgment referred to above, said, on the very day the measles made their appearance; "that he saw no signs of measles." (2) If he saw no signs of the measles, why give "the medicines that caused the inflammation"; *in order to bring out measles?* Can you tell, Messrs Editors?

Again. If you supposed a patient to be sick, with "canker in the stomach and bowels"; would you give medicines to *bring out measles?* Yet this patient while sick, was declared not to be sick with the measles, but with canker, and was treated to blue pills, and castor oil. I am clouded, *can* you Messrs. Editors, show light? T.

Remarks.

(1) By no means.

(2) We believe our correspondent, T. in this statement. To our certain knowledge, more than one lady who did not know as much as the Doctors, (?) was most soundly rated, for daring to express the opinion that the disease, under which the patient was laboring, was the measles; when the Doctors said it was something else. What presumption! To presume to know more than the *Doctors!* And what is worse than all the rest, to actually *know* more, than they! What *are* we coming too?

We repeat what we have said frequently; our columns are open to make any corrections, required, when we publish misstatements. Our object is to bring out the truth, and show up some of the humbugs, of the day. W.

SIXTEEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE!

By the arrival of the steamship Caledonia; we have the following *highly interesting intelligence.*

The King of Sweden is sick with the Measles! But, as we are informed by a distinguished councillor at Law, the prescription of *mercury in any form*, is prohibited by a special enactment, in that kingdom, under penalty of death, for the second offence; we presume he will recover.—W.

Musquetoe Bites.—Wash them with the Third Preparation, or Anti Spasmodic Tincture, prepared by the Botanics. It is also excellent for all bites of a similar nature. Those persons having an irritable skin, ought not to be without this valuable preparation. For stiffness of joints it is equal to any medicine perhaps, that can be obtained. Try it. W.

Haemorrhage.—Instead of being the consequence of any constitutional plenitude of the blood itself, Spitting of Blood is only a natural effect of real weakness in the coats of the containing vessels of the lungs; so that not only is the theory of making too much blood absolute nonsense, but the measures which medical men have for centuries been putting in force, for the cure of the hœmorrhagic diseases, have been one and all as fatal in their tendency, as the theory that led to them was in principle false. Look at the pale and ensanguined countenances of the unfortunate individuals, who, whether for spitting of blood, apoplexy, or other hœmorrhages, have been subjected to such cruel discipline, and tell me if these poor creatures make too much blood?—Too much blood!—only place your finger on the artery of the wrist, and you may feel it jerking, and compressible, like that of a female who has suffered from repeated floodings. Even during the febrile paroxysm, you may see by the circumscribed flush of the face, that this patient is actually dying of hectic or inanition. What fatal mistakes have not originated in the notion of making too much blood!—To bleed in the case of a ruptured blood-vessel, then, is positive madness. If you open a vein in the arm of any man, whether healthy or the reverse, and let blood, will the opening of another vein stop the flow of blood from the vein first opened?—So far from that, both veins will go on bleeding till the patient either faint or die! Should not this fact have long ago opened the eyes of the profession to the fallacy of their practice! Gentlemen how can you doubt, for a moment, that the coats of the blood-vessels, like every other tissue of the body, *must be* equally implicat-

ed in the *general debility* that cannot fail to be produced by whatever abstracts *from*, or prevents the entrance *of*, the material necessary to the healthy organization of every part of the human frame? To bleed or starve a person having a hereditary predisposition to spitting of blood or apoplexy, is the most certain method to develope these diseases in their worst forms!—Yet this is the daily practice of the most eminent physicians! one among many proofs that in the medical profession, eminence is less frequently attained by *successful results* in practice, than by the dexterous employment of all those mean arts and petty intrigues with which mediocre but unscrupulous minds too often beat men of genius in the game of life.—*S. Dickson, M. D. late a Medical officer on the British Staff.*

Lobelia—Quackery.

Dr. Curtis.—In a late edition of Comstock's Botany, in the chapter "Language of Flowers," I find the following:

"Lobelia.—Away with your quackery." And to this is appended the following note:

"Much used of late by a certain class of quack doctors—and being an acrid narcotic poison, of course it often kills but seldom cures."

I quote from memory, not having the book before me; but I believe I do the author justice.

Now, sir, the sentiment couched in the above reading of the lobelia flower, is the best and most appropriate one that could be devised; for whenever lobelia, in its own *proper person*, enters the door of the sick room, quackery must jump out of the window, creep up the chimney, or "absquatulate" through some other opening, for its deadliest enemy has got possession of the citadel, and will surely keep it. Lobelia is, indeed, *poison*, or *death* to quackery, and its enemies could not have better complimented it than by the pretty little imperative sentiment which they have given to its pretty little flower. To help them along I have taken the pains to render their "reading" into rhyme, as follows:

AWAY WITH YOUR QUACKERY!

Dedicated to Allopaths, Homœopaths, Nostrum Venders, and their Dupes and Victims.

Away with your quack'ry! let freemen proclaim,
Too long have we borne its tyrannical sway,
We blush to reflect on its deeds and its name;
To oblivion drive it to rest in its shame:
Away with your quackery, away!

Away with your quackery! its blundering deeds,
The pen of a Curtis would fail to portray:
For pity, in vain, dying nature oft pleads,
When the doctor comes in, blisters, poisons and bleeds.
Away with your quackery, away!

Away with it! then, in our long lov'd abodes,
Shall health her fair pinions in gladness display,
Mercurial ulcers no longer corode
And eat off the cheek bones;—new strength is bestow'd:
Away with your quackery, away!

Away with your quack'ry! yes, drive it afar!
Though prostrate beneath it our energies lay,
Yet hope, like a bright and glittering star,
Bids us raise them again, spite of lancet and war:
Away with your quack'ry, away!

Away with it! aye, what a course it has led,
Spreading death in our land with its murd'rous array
Of blue pills, Dover's powders, precipitate red,
Cantharides, calomel, opium and lead:
Away with your quack'ry, away!

Away with your quackery! O, freemen! arise,
Regain the good health you should all have to-day;
On! on to the rescue! nor heed its false cries—
Its poisons we hate, its vile drugs we despise:
Away with your quack'ry, away!

Away with your quack'ry! what deed has it done,
Around which the love of the people should play,
What cure has it made? or what victory won
Over death and disease? Simple truth answers, NONE:
Away with your quack'ry, away!

Away with your quack'ry! let Thomson, the brave
And true son of science, take part in the fray;
With his steam, and lobelia, and pepper, he'll save
Our land from the quacks, and their dupes from the grave:
Away with your quack'ry, away!

Thus for the symbol of the lobelia flower. Now for the note.

The man who, at this time of day, writes and publishes to the world the oft refuted falsehood, that lobelia is an "acrid narcotic poison," or, indeed, a poison of any kind, is either too ignorant or too dishonest to merit any notice, were it not that his book is designed for schools, and is read daily by hundreds and thousands of young persons, who generally think their text book a book of truth, and have usually no means of detecting and correcting its falsehoods and errors, until, in many instances, irreparable injury has been done to the cause of truth and medical science. For one, I enter my solemn protest against this method of poisoning the young mind against the great medical reformation, or rather, revolution of the nineteenth century, and move that the objectional note be expunged from the book, or the book itself interdicted in all Thomsonian families, schools, and communities. Who will second this motion?

[We, Ed. Prof. Tully, of New Haven, quite as great a doctor as Comstock, says, "all the tales about lobelia being a narcotic, are mere old women's stories.]—*B. M. Recorder.*

So long as colleges and schools could mystify Disease and its nature, any treatment that these proposed—no matter how cruel or

atrocious—would be submitted to in silence; but when people find out that every kind of disorder, inflammation included, may be conquered, not only by external, but by *internal* means, they will pause before they allow themselves to be depleted to death, or all but death, by the lancet of either surgeon or physician. The world will not now be deluded by the opposition of men, who stick to their opinion not so much because they have long supported it, as that it supports them—men who, in the words of Lord Bacon, would dispute with you whether *two* and *two* make four, if they found the admission to interfere with their interests.—*Ib.*

Medical Reform.

The influence of the principles advanced and the practice exhibited by the Thomsonians, and those who have trimmed up and improved the system of medicine first promulgated by Dr. S. Thomson, has become so extensive and powerful, that the use of calomel and the lancet, opium and nitre, have greatly lost ground, even among those who are not yet ready to adopt the true practice. There are hundreds and hundreds of persons in the community, who, though they are supposed to approve of the fashionable practice and will call a regular when sick, will not be bled nor take calomel, nor much of any thing else that does mischief to the system. The doctors are obliged, of course, to prescribe some innocent substances and proper diet, and hence, their practice is becoming far more successful than it formerly was. We have been often surprised to learn that A. B. and C., whom we had supposed to be entirely wedded to calomel, had resolved never to take any more of it. If there were a sufficient number of genuine reformers in this city to do the practice that would soon present itself, the result would be glorious both to the cause and the people. As it is, those whose who are disgusted with Calomel & Co., are obliged to go to mongrels, or to pill mongers, where they fare little better than in the hands of those from whom they departed.—*B. M. Recorder.*

The one great end of man's existence is *enjoyment.* Every organ and function of his body, every faculty of his mind, man throughout, is every way adapted to enjoyment of the richest kind and to an extent inconceivable by us as we now are. What a world of real pleasure is there in childish sports, and in the flow of "youthful blood," and buoyant elastic spirits; in the full, uninterrupted enjoyment of life and health, and strength; in eating, sleeping, and muscular exercise! Yet, what are all these compared with the higher exercise of mind, of glowing friendship, of the domestic feelings, of pure and elevated connubial love, of the still higher moral and religious feelings, of disinterested benevolence to man, and adoration of God, not to mention the still more exalted delight

springing from studying the works and operations of nature, from the exercise of mind as mind, which, more than anything else, calls into harmonious action, and that, too, in a higher degree, the greatest number of faculties! The perfection of man's nature consists in the harmonious and agreeable exercise of these and all his other faculties and powers. But man, in his eager chase after riches, does not give himself *time* to reap any of these golden fruits thus strewed by the God of nature in his path. He spends nearly all his time, all his energies, his whole existence upon his body in amassing wealth, in getting something to eat, and drink, and wear, and live in, and show off with. In doing this, he hurries, and drives, and toils, as though he had but a week to live, thereby breaking down his constitution, inducing disease in all its forms, and hurrying himself into an early grave. This cannot be the natural order of things. So noble a being as man was certainly never made *merely* to eat, and sleep, and flutter in the fashions, and heap up money. Had God designed that he, like the other animals, should expend his whole existence upon his body, he certainly never would have endowed him with the higher qualities of morality and intelligence. Life and probation are worth too much to be *all* swallowed up in merely gratifying our physical and animal wants. The body is only the servant of the mind, and for us thus to use up both the mind and body upon the latter, is to make ourselves mere brutes, and to throw into the back-ground all that is noble, and moral, and intellectual, and godlike in man. Yet all this the mass of makind do. Only here and there one spend their time in the exercise and enjoyment of mind, and moral feeling as such. How small a proportion of time is spent in studying the wonderful works of God, in admiring the beauties of nature, examining her operations, or studying and applying her laws and phenomena! No! man has no *time* to bestow upon these trivial, foolish matters! He does not take time even to eat and sleep, but must swallow down his food half masticated, and nearly untasted, thus deranging his stomach, and doubly abridging the pleasures of his palate. The same is true of all his enjoyments. He ruins his health in *making* money, and completes that ruin in spending it!

The order of nature evidently is for man to exercise every part of his body, every faculty of his mind in due proportion.

"Nature's wants are few but loud." A few hours' labor each day, say from five to eight, will earn all the necessaries and the comforts of life, artificial wants and extravagances excepted, and to every man, rich and poor, literary and in business, this amount of exercise is indispensable for preserving his health. The laboring classes, instead of consuming their whole existence in working, should be better paid for their labor, and thus allowed time to cultivate their intellects, and exercise their finer feelings.—*O. S. Fowler's Phrenological Journal.*

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,

FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.

ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.

[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the discase.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, OCTOBER 15, 1846. NO. 11.

[From the Providence Journal.]

Death of Benjamin Waterhouse.

The venerable Dr. Waterhouse died at his residence in Cambridge on Friday last, at the advanced age of ninety-two years.—He was born at Newport, in this State, and resided there till 1775, when he was sent to London to be placed under the charge of the celebrated Dr. Fothergill, a maternal relative. After pursuing his studies there and in Edinburgh, he was sent to the continent to complete his education, and graduated at the renowned University of Leyden. On his return to his native land, he was elected to a professorship in Harvard University, and sixty-two years ago was chosen Professor of Natural History in Brown University. He was ardently attached to the profession of medicine, as well as its kindred sciences, particularly botany, in which he acquired a high reputation. In 1811, he published a work entitled the "Botanist," dedicated to the elder President Adams, which displayed great attainment in this interesting branch of natural science. He wrote extensively for the press, little of which has survived him, except his "JUNIUS."

[Prof. Waterhouse was Professor in Harvard University twenty-seven years. Every one knows the mind and acquirements necessary to qualify its possessor to become a Professor in this venerable Institution. Dr. Waterhouse's "fame extended to France, England and Germany, where he was deservedly appreciated and admired; and he was regarded in his own country as one of the brightest ornaments of the medical profession."

We ask the attention of our readers to the following opinions concerning the reformed practice.

They were freely advanced and ably sustained by the distinguished individual alluded to above. We ask if the opinions of a "*regular M. D.*"—"Professor of *Materia Medica* in Cambridge University"—"known and admired"—as was Dr. Waterhouse—through England, France and Germany"—the instructor of some of the very persons who now affect to despise the reformed practice—*is of no value?* Must prejudice and what Dr. Waterhouse himself called "learned quackery," tread every thing into the dust!

But let us turn to the testimony. He says of "*lobelia inflata*": "The efficacy and safety of the vegetable I have had ample and reputed proof of in a number of cases, and in my own person, and have reason to value it equal to any article in our *Materia Medica*."

And yet this is the medicine that some ignoramuses call a "*deadly poison*;" sometimes applying another term to it, not quite so elegant as *deadly*.

Again, speaking of the "*reformed practice*," he says: "I value the uniting the warm bath, with the thorough cleansing of the whole alimentary canal, and recommend it on this account. It effects in three or four days what we regular physicians used to occupy as many weeks to accomplish. As a public teacher, I have told my pupils for nearly half a century past, that when they have learned how to restore the long impaired organs of digestion to their natural state, they have acquired two-thirds of their profession."

Again—"After the hazardous process of salivation, the physician may be perhaps able to say—*Now I have so far* changed the morbid state of the powerful operation of the *mercury*. But in what condition does he find the sufferer? His teeth are loosened, his healthy countenance is impaired, his voice is more feeble, and he is more susceptible of cold, and a damp state of the weather.—His original disease is to be sure overcome, but it is paying a great price for it. Secret history conceals from public notice innumerable victims of this sort.

I consider a man laboring under a chronic disease who has passed through one, two or three (as the case may be) processes of the lobelia emetic to be as much altered as the man who has gone through the very disagreeable operation of mercurial salivation; and if so, the discovery is highly valuable, and on this account I have spoken freely and strongly in favor of the new practice."

Now we candidly ask: Have we ever claimed more than what the Dr. acknowledges to be true? Have we ever said aught against the old school practice any more severe than what we have quoted above? This, be it remembered, is the testimony of no "*ignorant pretender*," "*who professes to know everything, and knows nothing*"—but of one who has the much *talked* of *parchment*, and who may, we fear, be charged with too great leniency in conferring the same degree on *some* now *entirely made* by its possession. W.]

Rules:

The observance of which are conducive to health.

No. 5.

Avoid breathing air charged with carbonic acid gas. There are, probably, none of our readers, who are ignorant of the nature of the effects of this gas, or how it may be generated.

It is obtained in great quantities by burning of coal, and by collecting the gas exhaled from flowers, in the night. It is found also in wells and old cellars.

Its effects upon the human system when taken into the stomach, are not injurious; but when taken into the lungs, they are most deadly. Doubtless all our readers have known repeated instances in which life has been nearly or entirely destroyed by the breathing of this gas. So frequent have been these instances in which its injurious effects have become known, that the public seem generally to exercise much care, in order that they may be avoided. But there is yet one opinion concerning this gas, somewhat prevalent in the community; that is utterly false, and may lead those entertaining it, to such exposure as to deprive them of life. The opinion referred to, is this. If wood or coal are allowed to consume *out* of the room, until it no longer gives off a gas, that can be recognized by the sense of smell or sight, that *then* it may be set into the room, and the gas afterwards thrown off, not being carbonic gas, can be taken into the lungs with impunity.

This opinion is, as we have said, entirely destitute of truth. Carbonic acid is thrown off from wood or coal, as long as its consumption continues. True, we cannot recognize any thing of the kind by our senses of sight or smell. It is a characteristic of the gas, that it wants both color and smell: so that we cannot detect its presence by either of those senses. What persons *do* detect by these senses, where coal is burning, are several other gases and vapor, by far less injurious than the carbonic. Thus we see, the injurious effects of burning charcoal may continue as the burning continues, and that their presence cannot be detected by the two senses upon which such dependence is placed.

Hence burning coals should not be placed in rooms where the doors and windows are shut, so as to prevent the gas evolved from passing off freely. W.

Leeches.—These disgusting animals are employed by the antiphlogistic doctors as a substitute for general blood-letting. Their bites are more or less dangerous, and death not unfrequently happens from the profuse bleeding which they occasion. "A child may be bled to death by leeches," says a London Physician, "and an infant has been known to die under the operation of a single leech."

Boisseau, in his work on Fever, says, "We are bound in conscience here to note the fact, that leeches are capable of destroy-

ing life. In addition to sufficient evidence to be drawn from books, the writer of this has himself been a witness, in more than a single instance, to the fact. The best method of suppressing the hemorrage, is said to be, to dip a straw in *oil of vitriol*, and let a drop run into the bite."

The author further observes, "that if the bleeding of leech bites become excessive, it should be checked by styptics, or, these failing, by *cauterization*, either with a sharp pointed piece of *lunar caustic*, a *mineral acid*, or *the point of a red hot wire*."

Professor Bigelow used to remark in his lectures, "I have known children to be killed by the bites of foreign leeches; caution should be observed in their application, as it is extremely difficult to stop the bleeding."

Death of Lord Byron.

Lord Byron called medicine "the *destructive* art of healing."—How truly it proved to be so in his own person, you will see, when I give you the details of his last illness:—"Of all his prejudices," says Mr. Moore, "he declared the strongest was that against Bleeding. His mother had obtained from him a promise, never to consent to be bled, and whatever argument might be produced, his aversion, he said, was stronger than reason. 'Besides, is it not,' he asked, 'asserted by Dr. Reid, in his Essays, that less slaughter is effected by the lance, *than the lancet*—that minute instrument of mighty mischief!' On Mr. Millengen observing that this remark related to the treatment of nervous, but not of inflammatory complaints, he rejoined, in an angry tone, 'Who is nervous, if I am not?—and do not those other words of his apply to my case, where he says, that drawing blood from a nervous patient, is like loosening the cords of a musical instrument, whose tones already fail, for want of a sufficient tension! Even before this illness, you yourself know how weak and irritable I had become; and bleeding, by increasing this state, will inevitably kill me. Do with me what else you like, but bleed me you shall *not*. I have had several inflammatory fevers in my life, and at an age when more robust and plethoric; *yet I got through without bleeding*. This time also, will I take my chance.'" After much reasoning, and repeated entreaties, Mr. Millengen at length succeeded in obtaining from him a promise, that should he feel his fever increase at night, he would allow Dr. Bruno to bleed him. "On revisiting the patient early next morning, Mr. Millengen learned from him, that having passed, as he thought, on the whole, a better night, he had not considered it necessary to ask Dr. Bruno to bleed him. What followed, I shall, in justice to Mr. Millengen, give in his own words:—"I thought it my duty now to put aside all consideration of his feelings, and to declare solemnly to him how deeply I lamented to see him trifle thus with his life, and show so little resolution. His per-

tinacious refusal had already, I said, caused much precious time to be lost;—but few hours of hope now remained, and unless he submitted immediately to be bled, we could not answer for the consequences. It was true, he cared not for life, but who could assure him, that unless he changed his resolution, the uncontrolled disease might not operate such disorganization in his system, as utterly and for ever to deprive him of reason! I had now hit at last on the sensible chord: and partly annoyed by our importunities, partly persuaded, he cast at us both the fiercest glance of vexation, and throwing out his arms, said, in the angriest tone, 'There you are, I see, a d—d set of butchers,—take away as much blood as you like, but have done with it!' We seized the moment (adds Dr. Millengen), and drew about twenty ounces. On coagulating, the blood presented a strong buffy coat; yet the relief did not correspond to the hopes we had formed; and during the night the fever became *stronger than it had been hitherto*, the restlessness and agitation increased, and the patient spoke several times in an incoherent manner.'" Surely, this was sufficient to convince the most school-bound of the worse than inoperative nature of the measure. Far from it. "On the following morning, the 17th April, the bleeding was repeated *twice*, and it was thought right also to apply blisters to the soles of his feet!" Well might Moore exclaim: "it is painful to dwell on such details." For our own present purpose, it will be sufficient to state, that although the "rheumatic symptoms have been completely removed," it was at the expense of the patient's life: his death took place upon the 19th, that is, *three* days after he was first bled.

The operation of Blood-letting is so associated, in the minds of most men, with the practice of physic, that when a very sensible German physician, some time ago, petitioned the King of Prussia to make the employment of the lancet *penal*, he was laughed at from one end of Europe to the other. This you will not wonder at, if you consider that the multitude always think "whatever *is*, is right;" but a little reflection will teach you that there must have been a period in the world's history, when the lancet was unknown as a remedy;—and that many centuries necessarily elapsed before it could even be imagined that loss of blood might alleviate or cure disease. Nations, nevertheless, grew and prospered. To what daring innovator the practice of physic owes the *Curse* of the lancet, the annals of the art leave us in ignorance; but this we know, that its introduction could only have been during the infancy of Medicine; when remedial means were yet few, and the mode of action of remedies totally unknown. It was the invention of an unenlightened,—possibly, a sanguinary age; and its continued use says but little for the after-discoveries of ages, or for the boasted progress of medical science. Like every other lucrative branch of

human knowledge, the Practice of Medicine at one time was entirely in the hands of the priesthood. Might not blood-letting have been first introduced as a sacrifice or expiation on the part of the patient for his supposed sins against an offended deity?—for that till very lately was the *ecclesiastical* cause of all disease.—*S. Dickson, M. D., London.*

Surgical Operation under Magnetic Influence.

A few days since, a large tumor was taken from the shoulder of Mrs. Dunn, wife of the Principal of the Academy at Hempstead, L. I., without pain, she having been put into a mesmeric sleep.—After the operation was finished, Mr. Dunn, by a few reverse passes, restored her to consciousness. In reply to an observation that she had quite a nap, she said she had, and that she felt better for it. The tumor having been mentioned, she was told that the physicians had examined it, and had concluded to do nothing more with it at present. She expressed considerable disappointment, and being asked if she would consent to be mesmerized next week, and have it taken out, she answered in the negative, and said that if it became necessary to have it removed, she would prefer to remain in a state of consciousness. Dr. French asked if she had experienced any pain or uncomfortable sensation during the sleep. She said she had not, and the Dr. then asked what she would think if he should tell her that it had been removed. She turned her eyes towards her shoulder, and perceiving a small spot of blood lower down on her dress, with a countenance indicating much anxiety, she asked her husband if it was out. The tumor was shown to her, and she evinced considerable agitation." The parties to this transaction, says the Brooklyn Eagle, are all well known in Hempstead, and their standing and position are such as to preclude all idea of deception.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

An interesting anecdote is related by the celebrated Montaigne, which is worthy of special attention. He mentions that he had the patronage of a benefice, at the foot of one of the Gascon mountains, where the inhabitants lived after a manner of their own, and were governed by certain laws and regulations which had descended from father to son, and to which they consented to pay obedience. They had no judges, lawyers, doctors, nor beggars, nor were they ever obliged to call in a stranger to settle their disputes. They avoided very scrupulously all connection with the other parts of France, to keep their minds in the utmost state of purity. At length, however, a physician took it into his head to marry a young woman of their village, and live among them. He began by teaching them that there were such things as fevers, rheums, and impost-humes, and in what part of the human body the heart, liver, and intestines were placed, of which, till then, they were in perfect ig-

norance; and instead of garlic, with which they had been accustomed to cure all their diseases, however violent and dangerous, he ordered them for a cough, or an indigestion, some strange foreign mixtures, and began to make a trade not only of their health, but their lives. Until this time they never observed that being out at night in the dew gave them headaches, that it was unwholesome to eat or drink any thing warm, or that the winds of autumn were more unwholesome than those of the spring; but after making use of the medicines introduced by him, they were beset by a whole legion of diseases to which they had never been accustomed; they not only perceived a general falling off of their ancient vigor, but they discovered also that their lives were shortened by at least one half.

We have just received from Dr. Potter, of Springfield, a letter informing us that four regular doctors, Stoddard, Temple, Boucher, and Miller, had waylaid him in the street, and used their canes over his head to their heart's content. That was surely a brave act, and proved most conclusively the superiority of their system of medical practice over that of Dr. Potter! It was a practical and literal illustration of the declaration of Dr. Alembert: "The physician lifts his club and strikes at random: if he strikes the disease he kills the disease, if he strikes nature he kills nature." They are driven to hard straits, who takes such a course as that.—*B. M. Recorder.*

The Influence of Gold.—A man who is furnished with arguments from the mint, will convince his antagonist much sooner than one who draws them from reason and philosophy. Gold is a wonderful clearer of the understanding; it dissipates every doubt and scruple in an instant; accommodates itself to the meanest capacities, silences the loud and clamorous, and brings over the most obstinate and inflexible. Philip of Macedon was a man of most invincible reason this way. He refuted by it all the wisdom of Athens, confounded their statesmen, struck their orators dumb, and at length, argued them out of all their liberties.—*Addison.*

Very Remarkable.—We have seen a letter from a citizen of Butler county to a brother of the writer, who lives in that place, which states that an unmarried young lady in that county had recently become the mother of five children—all boys, and all alive and "a kicking." This is the most extraordinary case of spontaneous production that we have seen chronicled for the season.—Should a certain law in the Digests of Aikin and Clay be enforced somebody would have to pay $2500 for the *vegetables.—Marion (Ala.) News.*

THE HIGHEST OCCUPATION OF GENIUS.—To diffuse useful information, to farther intellectual refinement, sure forerunners of moral improvement, to hasten the coming of that bright day, when the dawn of general knowledge shall chase away the lazy, lingering mists, even from the base of the great social pyramid; this indeed, is a high calling, in which the most splendid talents and consummate virtue may well press onward, eager to bear a part.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica*," constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,
G. CARLOS WILSON.

Boston, May 15, 1846.

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.

ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.

[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the disease.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, NOVEMBER 1, 1846. NO. 12.

Facts.

We have at several different times presented to our readers the opinions of eminent medical authors, upon the use and effects of mercury. And we have also, at different times, presented facts, quoted from authors sustaining those opinions. We have also presented, from time to time, facts that have come under the notice of the writer, in this place, and neighboring towns.

"Facts are stubborn things." We have recently learned of two more instances where its baneful effects have been more than commonly severe in their developement. These cases we purpose to state, for the further confirmation of those opinions, as well as for the information of our readers.

The first case was that of a young lady who was sick with a fever. An old school physician was called. He left calomel, to be taken at certain intervals.

While she was taking the poison, the physician called to see her. Previous to his calling, the nurse had discovered certain dark spots upon the lower limbs of the patient. When he called, she inquired what caused those spots. He replied: "You must stop the powders, for *calomel seems to be more fatal in its effects upon her system than common.*" Some of these spots were restored to their natural state without trouble. Others dropped out in large pieces, about the size of a cent. These effects were produced by the administrations of a physician of reputation. And what is better, he was an *honest* man. He was willing his patient's friends should know that calomel produced these "*fatal effects.*"

In a short time he left her, saying: "he could do nothing for her—that medicine would do her no good; and advised her friends to give her none." The nurse then took charge of her, and by giving her some of nature's remedies, soon raised her again from her sick bed.

How different was this physician from one, of whose conduct we have heard, within a few days. Being called to see a lady who knew and dreaded these *fatal effects* of mercury; he was charged by the patient not to leave any. "O! no," he replied. And straightway, he left her blue pills enough to make her mouth "awful sore, and loosen all her teeth."

We now proceed to the second case. This was also a young lady.—We would premise that this case did not come under the *immediate* notice of the writer. He had his information, however, in such a manner, that (knowing, as he does, all the parties,) he has no doubt of the truth of the statement. More especially is this the case, from the circumstance that the person treated, who was the narrator of the case, supposed it all *right* that

she should be so treated. And she now *actually supposes her life was in this manner saved.*

This lady being unwell, sent for an old school physician, who ordered mercury to be taken. His orders, of course, were carried into effect. The results were any thing but pleasant. The mouth soon became sore—the teeth were all loosened, and some dropped out—the tongue became enormously swollen—so badly that it filled the mouth, and extended some distance externally—after a while turning black, and splitting open—the patient in the mean time being unable to breathe through the mouth, or to draw the tongue within the lips. In addition to these effects, the health of the patient was ruined, probably for life, as she has not seen a well day since. The poisoning took place some eight or ten years since.

We ask our readers to ponder over these facts. They are not, by any means, solitary. Almost, yes, *every* one, that has arrived at the age of maturity, has seen the injurious results of the use of this mineral. And yet, it is no uncommon thing to hear persons say: "it is a perfectly safe medicine—no danger whatever to be apprehended from its administration." Is it philosophical to treat a subject in this manner? Who would speak in such a manner of any other article capable of producing these "fatal effects?"

It is but a short time since we were told by a citizen of this town, who has been repeatedly and repeatedly honoured by the suffrages of his townsmen, and stands high in their respect and esteem; "that he lost all of his teeth but one, in consequence of the mercury taken in one fit of sickness." Is this a safe article, when in the hands of the most skilful, its effects are so dreadful? W.

A Question for our Exchanges!

We have a question to propound to our several exchanges. We wish to learn if they have known an instance where electricity, developed by the machine, and taken from the Leyden Jar, has given rise to raising of blood from the stomach? We wish to learn, also, if, in their opinion, a one pint jar, loaded, and discharged, upon a class of perhaps six, including both ladies and gentlemen, *could* effect one young gentleman of the number in such a manner as to give rise to vomiting of blood? W.

QUESTION No. 2.

If, in administering the shower bath, it should give rise to an intense itching on the lower limbs, what is the cause of this itching? Why is it wholly confined to this part of the system? And what should be done to obviate this difficulty? Perhaps the "Water Cure Journal" can shew light upon this subject. W.

The Eastern Medical Reformer, in copying an article from the "Enquirer" has, (through the fault of the printer, we presume,) omitted a sentence near the close of the article, which destroys the meaning intended to be conveyed. Will the Editor make the necessary correction?

[From the Poughkeepsie Thomsonian.]

THE CHINESE DOCTORS.—A few weeks since we had the privilege of a short conversation with the Rev. Mr. Shuck, Baptist missionary from China; who is now travelling through the different portions of our states, in behalf of his mission in Canton. We made some inquiries respecting the state of medical science in China, as also the remedies used, &c.

We were happy to find, that throughout this vast empire, containing more than one hundred and fifty millions of rational beings, *they have never yet learned to use any mineral or vegetable poison*, as a remedy in disease. They *confine their prescriptions entirely* to harmless vegetable remedies. Thus, you see, we may reckon the people of this extensive empire as Botanics. From all that I could learn, the Chinese are not subject to so many forms of disease, neither are their complaints so mortal as among us. These facts prove, conclusively, what Dr. Rush acknowledged, that medical science had multiplied disease, and more than that, increased its mortality. Who can tell the amount of misery, pain and death, which might be prevented, if the physicians of the civilized world would confine their prescriptions to harmless vegetable remedies.

Madison, Ga., 1846. I. M. COMINGS.

Muscular Strength.

The power exerted by the action of the muscles in the human body is immense. Borellus first demonstrated, that the force exerted within the body greatly exceeds the weight to be moved, and that nature, in fact, employs an astonishing, we might almost say superfluous, power to move a small weight. It has been calculated that the deltoid muscle alone, which is situated near the top of the shoulder, when employed in supporting a weight of fifty pounds, exerts a force equal to two thousand four hundred and sixty-eight pounds. An idea of the force exerted by the human body, when in progressive motion, may be formed from the violence of the shock received when the foot unexpectedly strikes against an object in running. The strongest bones are sometimes fractured by the action of the muscles.

The muscular power of the human body is indeed wonderful.—A Turkish porter will trot at a rapid pace, carrying a weight of six hundred pounds.

Milo, a celebrated athletic of Crotona, in Italy, early accustomed himself to carry the greatest burthens, and by degrees became a monster in strength. It is said that he carried on his shoulders an ox four years old, weighing upwards of one thousand pounds, for above forty yards, and afterwards killed it with one blow of his fist. He was seven times crowned at the Pythian games, and six at the Olympian: he presented himself the seventh time, but no one had the courage to enter the list against him. He was one of

the disciples of Pythagoras, and to his uncommon strength the learned preceptor and his pupils owed their lives. The pillar which supported the roof of the school suddenly gave way, but Milo supported the whole weight of the building, and gave the philosopher time to escape. In his old age, Milo attempted to pull up a tree by the roots, and break it. He partly effected it, but his strength being gradually exhausted, the tree, when half cleft, re-united, and his hands remained pinched in the body of it. He was then alone, and being unable to disengage himself, died in that position.

Haller mentions that he saw a man whose finger, being caught in a chain at the bottom of a mine, by keeping it forcibly bent, supported by that means the weight of his whole body, 150 pounds, until he was drawn up to the surface, a height of six hundred feet.

Augustus II, king of Poland, could roll up a silver plate like a sheet of paper, and twist the strongest horse-shoe assunder.

A Frenchman, who was recently attached to a circus, was able to resist the united strength of four horses, as was witnessed by hundreds in various parts of the country.

A lion is said to have left the impression of his teeth upon a piece of solid iron.

The most prodigious power of muscle is exhibited by fish. The whale moves with a velocity through the dense medium of water, that would carry him, if continued at the same rate, round the world in little less than a fortnight. A sword-fish has been known to strike his weapen quite through the oak plank of a ship.

Illustrations of Quackery.

Walpole says that acute and sensible people are often the most easily deceived by quacks.

If the imposture required any ingenuity to detect it, there might be some hope for mankind; but it actually lies concealed in its *very obviousness.* At the same time it must be owned, that, in some cases, no little degree of firmness is required to resist the importunity with which a nostrum is recommended.

"I seriously declare," says Sir A. B. Faulkner, "that I was myself pressed with no little earnestness, by a person not otherwise above par, in credulity, trying to persuade me of the infallible powers—of what? Ye shades of Hippocrates and Æsculapius—what? Actually and seriously, *a decoction of flint stones!* The prescription was grave and methodical. The flints were to be boiled, and the supernatant liquor poured off for use. The lady who advised this precious physic, would do so on the best authority; and not of one, but of many persons of her acquaintance, upon whose word she could place the most implicit reliance."

The charm is in the *mystery*, in all these cases. "*Minus credunt quæ ad suam salutem pertinent, si intelligunt,*" says Pliny.—

"Credulity is indigenous in no particular climate." "In Chili," says Zimmerman, "the physicians blow around the beds of their patients, to drive away diseases; and, as the people in that country believe that physic consists wholly in their wind, their doctors would take it very ill of any person who should attempt to make the method of cure more difficult." They think they know enough when they know how to blow; which translated into common language, means "raising the wind."

Lord Bacon says, "That the impostor frequently triumphs at the bed-side of the sick, when true merit is affronted and dishonored; the people have always considered a quack, or an old woman, as the rivals of true physicians. Hence it is that every physician, who has not greatness of soul enough not to forget himself, feels no difficulty in saying with Solomon, "*If it is with me as with the madman, why should I wish to appear wiser than he is?*"

"The world is generally averse
To all the truth it sees and hears;
But swallows nonsense and a lie,
With greediness and luxury."—BUTLER.

—*Physic and Physicians.*

Tartar Emetic.

This is one of the preparations of antimony, and is used extensively by the medical faculty, both as an emetic, and for other purposes. It is composed of tartaric acid, antimony, and potash, and is called by chemists the *tartrate of antimony and potassa.* It is also known in common medical language as *tartarized antimony.* It is a violent poison, producing in some cases, according to Professor Ware, "long continued and ineffectual retching, spasms, failure of the pulse, coldness of the extremities, and great prostration."

"Experience proves," says M. Orfila, "that tartar emetic, if it does not excite vomiting, may produce death when given in the quantity of a few grains; instances, indeed, have occurred, in which an extreme prostration of debility have succeeded the administration of a single grain of this poison, when it has not occasioned any evacuation. Sometimes, on the contrary, and particularly in infants, it excites vomiting so copious and painful as to require an immediate arrest."

"Mixed with lard and other substances," continues the same writer, "and applied as an irritant to the surface of the body, tartar emetic may produce poisoning and death."

Dr. Heustis of Alabama, whose opinions, says Dr. Eberle, are entitled to much respect, remarks, "I have known a person in a high fever, with a strong and full pulse, and generally increased temperature of the body, in less than two hours after taking this medicine, to be affected with a death-like coldness; the pulse at

the wrist no longer perceptible, the eye inanimate, the lips, cheeks, and extremities exhibiting the lividity of death, a cold and copious sweat exuding from the general surface of the body, and every symptom of approaching dissolution. *Frequent occurrences* of this nature, have, for the last two years, almost entirely banished the use of tartar emetic from my practice."

Dr. Good, in his remarks on the antimonial emetics, says, "Given in small doses, the nausea they produce is accompanied with the most deadly langour, and with an atony, (weakness,) that, in numerous cases, has been succeeded with more mischief than any degree of benefit that could have been proposed by their use.—'Many in this manner,' observes Dr. Percival of Dublin, in his manuscript on the volume of Nosology, 'have sunk under the nauseating doses of emetic tartar, employed upon the hypothesis of Dr. Cullen, in low fevers.'"

Dr. Jackson of Boston, mentions the case of a laborer, named Connelly, who entered the Massachusetts Hospital with inflammation of the lungs, and died in eight days afterward from the effects, as it was supposed, of tartar emetic. "The medicine was stopped," says the writer, "from an apprehension of evil, though none appeared at the time; but afterwards the patient had copious and very urgent vomiting." Dr. J. also observes, "I well remember that we feared the medicine might have contributed to the fatal issue." Again, in some general remarks on antimony, he says, "The powers of life are much depressed under its long continued use, and it has been suspected of contributing to a fatal issue of the disease for which it has been given."—*Mattson's Practice.*

☞ The following prescription has two recommendations. It is very simple, and advises no poisons. W.

Consumption.—The following is said to be an effectual remedy, and will in time eradicate the disorder. Live temperately—avoid spirituous liquors—wear flannels next to the skin; and take every morning, half a pint of new milk, mixed with a wine-glass full of expressed juice of geeen hoarhound. One who has tried it says—"Four weeks' use of the hoarhound and milk relieved the pains of my breast, gave me a deep breath, long and free, strengthened, harmonized my voice, and restored me to a better state of health than I had enjoyed for years."

The Hottest.—A gentleman at one of the hotels in an eastern city, sat beside a countryman, who, from his appearance, had just come down. On the opposite side of the table sat a plate of peppers, the genuine red hot ones, strong enough to shake a man to pieces, which the countryman eyed for a moment, and then plunged his fork over, and conveyed one entire to the mouth. He munched away until he could stand it no longer, for he became

the color of crimson, and the tears poured down his cheeks. He hastily took it from his mouth, and laying it down aside of his plate, exclaimed, "There! lay there and cool, will you!"

Feather Beds.

Concerning beds, I cannot speak the whole truth without greatly reprobating a strongly cherished custom of society, for I am compelled to declare that *feather beds* are in every respect objectionable; and that they possess not one redeeming quality—not a solitary virtue to save them from the general bonfire to which they ought immediately to be consigned.

Is it claimed that they are "soft and warm," and therefore conducive to human comfort? It is true that feather beds are absolutely softer than straw, hay, moss or hair mattrasses; and it is true that they do not so rapidly conduct the heat from our bodies, and, therefore, are considered warmer: but it is also true, that they so relax and debilitate our bodies, and so affect our nervous systems and our calorific function, that we *feel* our feather-beds to be harder, and to be less conducive to the healthy and comfortable regulation of our bodily temperature, than our beds of straw or moss.—And hence, when we become fully accustomed to hard beds, if our habits are in other respects correct, we do not require so much clothing by night nor by day, in cold weather, as when we are accustomed to sleep on feathers.—*Graham.*

The first resource of the surgeon is the lancet—the first thing he thinks of, when called to an accident, is how he can most quickly open the floodgates of the heart to pour out the stream of an *already enfeebled* existence. Does a man fall from his horse or a height, is he not instantly bled?—has he been stunned by a blow, is not the lancet in requisition? Nay, has an individual fainted from over-exertion or exhaustion, is it not a case of FIT—and what so proper as venesection!

In every case of *stun* or *faint*, the employment of this instrument must be a superadded injury;—in all, there is a positive enfeeblement of the whole frame, evidenced by the cold surface and weak or imperceptible pulse; there is an exhaustion, which loss of blood, so far from relieving, too often converts into a state of utter and hopeless protraction. True, men recover though treated in this manner, but these are not *cures*—they are *escapes!—S. Dickson, M. D., London.*

A MONSTROUS WOMAN.—The Ohio State Journal says that there is a woman in Picaway co., in that State, who weighs 464 pounds! She cannot dispose of herself in less than two chairs, and would fill three pretty well. She usually sleeps in a large chair that she had made for that purpose, not being able to sleep in bed.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks, will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themelvess of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in perusing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - - $4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - - 5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - - - 1 62 1-2 do do do
Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.
☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Months.*
Middleborough, Oct. 1, 1846, JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S
And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.
Fall River, May 15, 1846.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL.

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

The Medical Enquirer,

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, NOVEMBER 15, 1846. NO. 13.

The Reformed Practice. Its Prospects.

We have offered our readers several articles, setting forth by opinions and examples, the injurious effects of Calomel. Notwithstanding the prejudice of the community, which hangs like an incubus upon free thought and enquiry on medical subjects, we are gratified to learn that this powerful poison is fast becoming unpopular. Fact after fact comes before the people, and they are freeing themselves from the tyranny, which would first poison and then denounce, every effort to retrieve the evil consequences. The opposition to this article is becoming stronger and more general than ever before. It is no uncommon occurrence now, for parents to employ the remedies of the reformed practice for their children. Say they; "We do not wish our child to be filled up with Calomel." Frequently has the writer been told this as the reason why he was called.

A day or two since, he was applied to for advice by one who had never tried the reformed practice, or any of its remedies. He said; "I have tried this physician and that, (naming several) but they do not touch my case.—And as to taking their Calomel I *will* not; *for I know it is killing me.*"—We rejoice to see that information is spreading, on a subject of such vital importance. We rejoice to see that the people are breaking away from that bondage which has been ruining their healths besides depriving them of their liberty. But there is yet more, far more of tyranny to be overcome. There are now in this town, a large number of families that would employ a reformed practitioner *if they had their liberty.* But they have it not. We are aware that this is strong language, but we have the facts to make it good. Frequently have we been called to attend the sick when our being called was the signal for opening the floodgates of foul slander—profanity—and malicious falsehood, not only on the part of the people generally, but also on the part of the physician who has lost a patient thereby.—And these are sometimes brought to bear upon the patient, and patient's friends, until they are forced, contrary to their own conviction of the right, to employ whomsoever the fury of the populace may dictate. Well do we recollect the first case in which the reformed practice was tested in this village. It was some years before the writer commenced practice. The excitement ran high—the falsehoods circulated were almost innumerable—and the fury of those who were entirely ignorant of the treatment was so great that there was much reason to fear a mob. And what was all this excitement about? What all the profanity and falsehood? Why? "tell it not in Gath, and publish it not in Askelon!" A father had the independence and firmness of mind to employ such a physician for his son as he

pleased, without consulting those who would meddle with what did not belong to them and neglect their own affairs. We admire that firmness of mind which adheres to its own convictions of right in spite of every influence. And we also think that no despotism is so much to be dreaded as that of a majority—far more is it to be feared than the despotism of one man, be he ever so powerful.

Something more than a year since, the writer attended a lady through a long fit of sickness. Her diseases were congestive typhus fever of a most malignant type—together with erysipelas. In a short time after he commenced prescribing for her, a neighbor took the responsibility of saying; "that she was being steamed to death and burnt to death with pepper."—What were the facts? She had not been steamed and had not taken the smallest particle of pepper.

More recently we were called to attend a lady seized with a violent palpitation of the heart, and bilious fever. A day or two afterwards the husband was strongly cautioned "not to have his wife steamed again, for unless he stopped employing such a physician she would be steamed to death."—Reader, note the fact that the patient *had not been steamed at all.* And yet we believe the person first telling the falsehood lived next door to the patient.

What then must be the character of the principles which meet with *such* opposition? What must be the final *fate* of those principles? Dr. Franklin was a "presumptuous infidel" for daring to bottle up lightning! Fulton was a fool—the butt of every species of ridicule—a fit subject for guardianship, because he had conceived the wild, foolish, nonsensical notion, that a boat might be propelled through the instrumentality of steam. And last of all the reformed practice must meet the same obstacles—the same kind of opposition—the opposition of those who know not what they do.—Time *was* when he who had the presumption to erect a lightning rod was challenging the Almighty to send down a stroke of electricity and consign his property to certain destruction. Time *is* when an individual preferring nature's remedies to those of art "*ought to die!*" But what we again ask is the prospect in the future of the reformed practice. Already have the principles of the practice advanced so much that instead of one there are now a goodly number of families who employ that physician alone, who practices in accordance with them. Many in certain diseases only.—And the number in both is steadily increasing. The only ultimate effect of such opposition will be in this case, as in all other cases, to aid in their final triumph. And the greater the opposition, and the larger the number of falsehoods circulated, the more speedily will that triumph be consummated.

W.

Reform.

That the Botanic system of Medical Practice, in its principles and mode of cure, is quite opposite in its character to the Allopathic practice, is freely admitted by all parties. Should it succeed in supplanting the other, as it

undoubtedly must, it would be a more glorious revolution than has ever yet been accomplished in the science of medicine. But because it developes new truths, and is taking long strides in advance of former systems, old error clings with greater tenacity to its own absurdities, and with sophistry and falsehood endeavors to check the investigation of truth.

As on this and other subjects in other times, we are asked, if we attempt to believe and propagate doctrines, in opposition to men of talent and learning who have spent their lives in pursuing the same subject or science? Like them we ask in return, are our principles and doctrines true or are they false? Examine them not in the flickering rays which other men's minds are shadowing forth, but in the light of truth, of nature, and of common sense.

The professedly learned and wise have always opposed any innovation upon the subject to which their minds were particularly applied, unless introduced by themselves. The long list of persecutions show us that the principles, for holding which, persons were thus treated, were purer and better than those held by their persecutors, and became the glory of the succeeding age. So that it is no evidence of error, to hold opinions in opposition to the learned, to advocate a system regarded as false by those whom we formerly in our ignorance looked upon as wise teachers.

But when a system thus opposed and slandered, gains the public favor in proportion as its principles are known and its results witnessed, it is a strong proof that it is founded upon better principles, and inculcates a bettter and more successful practice than its antagonist, with all its professed wisdom and experience. Such is the fate of the Botanic practice: being founded upon principles and pursuing a method of cure in harmony with the laws of life, it is gaining in favor with the people in proportion to their knowledge of its merits, despite the prejudices of the ignorant and the slanders of the learned. A.

Experience.

The Chemist may analyze compounds and combine simples with the greatest exactness; the Anatomist may trace every bone, muscle and nerve in the human body, but the knowledge of both combined is not sufficient to enable one to determine the effect that a certain simple or compound will produce in the system without first trying the experiment. Experience then must be our guide in ascertaining the good or bad effects of medicine; and he who possesses but a limited knowledge of Chemistry or Anatomy, may as readily discern the effects of a medicine, as he who is intimately acquainted with the science of Chemistry or the formation of the human system. A.

ON THE IMMERSION OF STILL-BORN CHILDREN, IN COLD WATER.—Dr. Scholer, (assistant physician of the Berlin Lying-in-Institution details two cases, and alludes to several others, in which the immersion in cold water was successful, after all the ordinary means had failed, of reanimating the infant.—*British and Foreign Medical Review.*

Laboring too much.

People do not have relaxation enough in New-England. They too generally have a care-worn expression, from infancy to age; and the fact cannot be denied, that anxiety is a weariness to the flesh. We are all utilitarians in this country, especially in the Northern States, hardly affording ourselves opportunity for eating or sleeping in the manner which nature demands—for she can only conduct her chemical operations properly, and re-adjust the deranged vital machinery, while we are quietly slumbering. We recruit ourselves and grow fat during a refreshing nap—but exhaust the system, both physically and mentally, in pursuing to excess the ordinary round of every-day business. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is a proverb based on a profound knowledge of the laws of our being.

Females, in New-England, are worse off than the other sex in the deprivation of out-of-door relaxation, as custom has made it vulgar to breathe the fresh air of Heaven, unless it is done in a very lady-like manner. Hence they make feeble mothers—look thin, sallow, lank, and die by thousands, prematurely, of diseases that never would have been developed had there been less education of the mind, and more of the body, in girlhood.

A sad mistake is produced by a too implicit belief in the adage that "time is money," since the first object of pursuit is, in consequence, made to be cash. Those who attempt to rest reasonably from their labors, at proper periods, are either afraid of not having enough, or are perpetually reminded that idleness ends in want.—So the shuttle flies faster than it ought to go; the farmer cheats himself out of all that is worth having, health, by denying himself and his boys a holiday, because time is money, and example is everything; merchants in cities toil for the immediate benefit of thieves and paupers—paying taxes in proportion to their income—and leave the world unsatisfied, having never found themselves ready to rest and take comfort. We work too much and too long in New-England.—*Medical Journal.*

[From the Water-Cure Journal.]

Water Dressings in Surgery.

Since the greatest discoveries were made by Priessnitz in the remedial uses of water, surgeons appear to have employed the water dressings, as they are called, much more than formerly. For some years past the "German water dressings" have been spoken of. In England they have been used considerably, and within three or four years by some surgeons in this country. Professor Mutter of Philadelphia, an experienced surgeon, gives us the following in his edition of Professor Liston's work, a London publication. The Professor agrees with Mr. Liston in the superiority of the water dressing in wounds and injuries, as follows: "In lacerated

wounds, to which Mr. Liston refers in the text, no dressing is comparable to water, in some form or other, and for several years I have employed, as a first dressing, nothing else. In summer I use *cold*, and in winter *warm*, and apply it as recommended by Liston and McCartney, viz: after cleansing the wound, and approximating its edges, whenever this is proper, pledgets of *patent lint* dipped in water are to be gently placed upon its surface, and the whole covered with a piece of oiled silk, to prevent evaporation. In summer I found it best not to apply the oiled silks, as it keeps the part too hot, and in its stead apply two thicknesses of wet lint, which will retain the moisture much longer than one. An assistant should, also, about every half hour, pour a spoonful or two of water over the dressings, but without removing them. Thus treated, I have seen the most terrific lacerated wounds from machinery or gun-shot heal most rapidly by the first intention. Only a few weeks since, I treated the son of a professional friend, who had received a severe lacerated wound, with the loss of a portion of two fingers, from the bursting of his gun, by the cold water dressing, and nearly every fragment of skin that could be placed in a proper position united by the first intention."

Acknowledging the comparative inutility of blood-letting, as it was employed by himself, M. Louis asks, "Should we obtain more important results, if as is practised in England, the first bleedings were carried to syncope or fainting? This practice deserves a trial, but great success cannot, I think, be anticipated; since many cases, the history of which I have drawn up, and which were fatal, were bled to a sufficient extent. Among these was one who was bled on the day of the attack, and who nevertheless died on the sixth; the vein having been opened *five* times and the quantity of blood lost *twelve* or *sixteen* ounces each bleeding."

Among the practical deductions of M. Louis, with regard to the effects of blood-letting, are, that it has very little influence on the progress of quinsy, erysipelas of the face, and inflammation of the lungs, and that its influence is not more evident in the cases bled copiously and repeatedly, than in those bled only once and to a small amount. In a word, we are led to infer that blood-letting is neither of much utility in the beginning, middle, nor toward the close of an inflammatory disease. The author also remarks that in the hospital la Pitie, he has employed blood-letting in a great many cases of inflammation of the lungs, to the extent of twenty or twenty-five ounces and more, or even to fainting, and yet he has *never seen these inflammations arrested in a single instance.*

That no one may question the high standing of M. Louis in the medical profession, I will here enumerate a few of his titles, as they are introduced by himself in his works: Physician to the Hospital la Pitie, Perpetual President of the Medical Society of Observation, Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Par-

is, Corresponding Member of the Medical Society of Marseilles, of the Imperial Medico-Chirurgical Society of St- Petersburg, and of the Medical Society of Edinburg; Member of the Legion of Honor.—*Mattson's Practice.*

Mutton.—Colman in his work of European Agricultur, speaking of English mutton, says:—"Mutton is always the prevailing meat in market, for this seems to be the favorite dish on English tables. It is a remarkable fact, that mutton is the prevalent dish at the public schools and colleges. At the Blue Coat School in London, for example, it is the sole meat for the eight hundred boys, four or five days out of seven. The same is the case, I am told, at Eton; and this not, as I supposed, from its comparative cheapness, but from experience, and the opinion of medical men, that it is the most wholesome diet, and least likely to interfere with intellectual application and health.

Remedy for Sprains.—Accidents of this sort are not unfrequent, and perhaps none are more liable to them than the laboring class of people. They happen most generally in the joints of either the upper or lower limbs, accompanied with much pain and swelling, and inability to use the limb. The remedy is simple, and within the reach of every one. Cloths wet freely in a strong and cold solution of salt and water, applied and persevered in, generally effect a speedy cure. If necessary to make a shift and the part is very painful, apply the leaves of garden wormwood wet in spirits. Should the part injured remain weak, as it sometimes does in severe sprains, a safe remedy is to pump or pour on cold water freely for a few mornings.—*Prairie Farmer.* S. L.

Jefferson, Kane co. 1844.

Owing to the scarcity of apples, pears, peaches, &c. prevailing throughout the state, as well as the great abundance and excellent properties of cranberries, the latter are much used for sauce. In preparing them for the table, hundreds of dollars, may no doubt, annually be saved by the people of Michigan, by observing the following directions, and that, too, without causing the sauce to be any the less palatable.

To each quart of berries, very shortly after the cooking of them is commenced, add a teaspoonful of saleratus.. This will so neutralize the acidiferous juice which they contain, as to make it necessary to use only one-forth part as much sugar as would have been requisite had they been cooked without using saleratus.—*Michigan Farmer.*

Strong Pills.—An itinerant quack doctor in Texas was applied to by one of Col. Hays' rangers to extract the iron point of an Indian arrow from his head, where it had been lodged for some time.

"I cannot 'stract this, stranger," said he, "be kase to do so would go nigh killin' you; but I tell ye what I can do, I can give you a pill that will melt it in your head."

A verdict of five hundred dollars damages was recorded in the Berks County (Pa.) Common Pleas last week, against a physician residing in Kutztown, for unskilful and negligent treatment of a fractured arm.

The Water-Cure Journal.

PROSPECTUS.

It is pretty generally understood that the old modes of medical practice, by poisonous drugs, although for many centuries in vogue, are yet, in many particulars, radically erroneous. Accordingly, new systems have been sought out. All of these, even to the water treatment, must of necessity be founded to a greater or less extent, upon some well-established and long-known principles of medical science. But the system which of all is the greatest innovation upon previous modes, is that popularly termed HYDROPATHY, OR THE WATER-CURE—a means of curing and preventing disease without the use of drugs of any kind. Whatever may be said in favor of other modes, it will, we believe, be acknowledged by all who are acquainted with the facts, that this system has no parallel as to its success. It is a system, moreover, that is eminently calculated to become understood by the many.

The Water-Cure Journal, will be devoted to the explanation of the new system. The different diseases to which the human system is subject, will be described, and the most effective mode of treatment given. In addition to this, each number will contatn cases from the Editor's note-book, with the treatment of the same. It wlll also contain original articles on Physiology, and Diet, and extracts from the best European and American authors on those subjects; articles on animal vegetable and agricultural chemistry will be selected from the most able authors; various moral and intellectual subjects will be introduced into its columns when space will permit; in short no pains will be withheld to make the Journal interesting to *all*.

The system apparently simple as it is, we are willing to have based on its capability *to be made speedily efficacious in acute diseases of whatever form, aad in the preventing of pain; but its strongest facts, if possible, are to be found in the curing of chronic maladies that no other means can reach.*

TERMS.—The Water-Cure Journal is published monthly, each number to contain 32 octavo pages, neatly bound, at the low rates of $2 for 3 copies to one address, $5 for 8 copies, $10 for 20 copies to one individual address. Address JOEL SHEW, M. D., 47 Bond street, New York.

All Editors, Publishers, are authorized agents, and by remitting to us 5 names with the money, will be entitled to the 6th copy, or 1 dollar's worth of books advertised in the Journal.

Address post paid, as above.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica*," constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers. Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO all other kinds of Goods kept in the country which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.
Middleborough. November 15. 1846.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks, will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themselves of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in persuing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - $4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - - 5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - - 1 62 1-2 do do do
Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.
☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Weeks.*
Middleborough. Oct. 1, 1846. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

A. J. WAKEFIELD,

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

Office, No. 6, Granite Block: Residence, Corner of Franklin and Oak Streets,
FALL RIVER, MASS.

Dr. W. is ready to wait on all who desire his professional services. june15

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.
ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.
[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the disease.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,
Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, DECEMBER 1, 1846. NO. 14.

Medical Science.

With all our boasted independence and self competency, still we are fond of authority; we want some great man's name to substantiate the truths which every day's experience forces upon us, else we are half inclined to doubt the evidence of our own senses, and fearful least we imbibe truths in opposition to some eminent person who is regarded as a kind of oracle of wisdom.

It is this reliance upon authority, that causes this class of persons to place the greatest confidence in the physician who professes the best acquaintance with the writings of eminent medical authors, believing, as they do, that such a course must give him a proper knowledge of curing disease. Such persons are in the darkness of ignorance, and have need to learn, that much of this medical literature is useless lumber, a clog, in fact, to the progress of medical science, mystifying and burying medical truths with their ingenious theories, founded on "false facts," and proving pernicious in their application to the removal of disease.

That such is the character of most medical literature, is no discovery of the Botanics, they have never condemned it more strongly than do the advocates of poisons, when placed in circumstances where no harm is expected to accrue from telling the truth. The evidence of those who stand eminent as medical teachers, shows us very conclusively, that they attach but very little importance to the medical speculations of former times;—that among all the theories that have been advanced, and so strongly urged and attempted to be proved by distorted facts, not one is worthy to be snatched from the general ruin to which they are fast hastening. The practice based upon such theories, is equally fallacious, and does not receive the sanction of the Professors of our medical institutions, though as a whole, they maintain the same round of poisoning and depletion, varied according to some new dogma or caprice of the present day.

Brown, Rush, &c., condemned the practice of medicine as taught in their day, and in our times the teachers speak of it as "learned quackery," "an ineffectual speculation," "more injurious than beneficial in fever," "no confidence in former theories," "should be swept away with the besom of destruction," and lest it may be, in the list of condemnation, though not the least, by any means, we find Doctor Forbes, who is regarded as one of the brightest lights of medical science in Great Britain. In his "Review," a few months since, he declares his belief "That in a large proportion of the cases treated by allopathic physicians, the disease is cured by nature and not by them."

"That in a lesser, but still not a small proportion, the disease is cured by nature in spite of them; in other words, their interference opposing, instead of assisting the cure."

"That, consequently, in a considerable proportion of disease, it would fare as well, or better, with patients, in the actual condition of the medical art, as more generally practised, if all remedies, at least all active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned."

"We repeat our readiness to admit these inferences as just, and to abide by the consequences of their adoption. We believe they are true. We grieve sincerely to believe them to be so; but so believing, their rejection is no longer in our power; we must receive them as facts, until they are proved not to be so."

"What, indeed, is the history of medicine but a history of perpetual changes in the opinions and practice of its professors, respecting the very same subjects—the nature and treatment of diseases? And, amid all these changes, often extremely and directly opposed to one another, do we not find these very diseases, the subject of them remaining (with some exceptions) still the same in their progress and general event? Sometimes, no doubt, we observe changes in the character and event, obviously depending on the change in the treatment,—and, alas, as often for the worse as for the better; but it holds good as a general rule, that amid all the changes of the treatment, the proportion of cures and of deaths has remained nearly the same, or, at least, if it has varied, the variation has borne no fixed relation to the difference of treatment."

"What difference of opinion, what an array of alleged facts directly at variance with each other, what contradictions, opposite results of a like experience, what ups and downs, what glorification and degradation of the same remedy, what confidence now—what despair anon in encountering the same disease with the very same weapons, what horror and intolerance at one time of the very opinions and practices which previously and subsequently are cherished and admired!"

Such is the testimony of a man who has had the most ample opportunities to investigate the whole matter, and to test the truths which he so frankly proclaims to the world. And yet the people are asked to place implicit confidence in such an inefficient and baneful practice. If the physician require them to loose their life blood, or receive his deadly poisons, they submit the willing victims to his death dealing remedies, and bestow praises upon him because he had not poisoned them to death, verily believing that such a pernicious practice saved them from an untimely grave.

What absurdities may not minds thus enslaved be made to believe! A.

"Mr. Barry, a respectable citizen of Boston, applied to an apothecary for a dose of cream of tartar; in place of which he received tartar emetic; he had no sooner taken a small portion of it, than he was thrown into the most violent puking and spasms. A physician was immediately sent for, who administered fifteeen grains

of white vitriol. Death soon followed. *Query*—Which killed the man—the tartar emetic or the white vitriol?"

Opium.

We fear, and indeed have reason to know, that some of our readers have supposed that we object, mostly, to the old school practice, because of the extensive use of calomel by its practitioners. In this there is a great error of opinion. True, we do object to that practice, on that account, *in part*.—But this is not the only reason. On the contrary, we object to the greatest proportion of articles (*medicines*, we cannot allow them to be) used in the allopathic practice.

Among the articles used, most extensively, and which are producing a vast amount of injury, is opium. No one who has not made especial efforts to inform himself, has the least idea of the quantity of this article consumed annually. It enters very extensively into the practice of every Allopathic—it is used universally by quacks—and all the endless varieties of patent nostrums, depend almost entirely for their soothing effects on the noxious drug. Does a person have the tooth ache? opium in the form of laudanum is prescribed—is he "nervous?" opium in the form of morphia, is prescribed (if it *does* "produce obstinate wakefulness")—does he cough badly? some balsam, a large proportion of which is opium, must be poured down—and the writer has even known, morphia prescribed by an old school physician in this town for the—*nose-bleed!!*

It is very rarely, if ever, the case, that an old school physician has a patient any length of time, without administering this article. And the numerous cases of palsy, ticdoloureux, shifting pains, weak nerves, constipation, indigestion, which follow, testify clearly to its deleterious effects. In fact, every one, we think, will readily admit, that it is a poison, and ought not to enter the human system.

We invite attention to the following authorities. We quote from Professor Worthy. M. D. "The symptoms occasioned, are, giddiness, confusion of sight, wildness of the eyes, palpitation, loss of memory and voice, stupor, nausea, vomiting, universal twitchings, and convulsions."

Says Dr. Christoson: "Opium acts on the brain, causing congestion and profound sleep; on the general nervous centre, causing convulsions; and on the muscles as a direct sedative. *It is poisonous* to all animals. The effects of a full dose, are, excitement of the pulse; followed by torpor and sleep, which terminates in six, eight, or ten, hours, in headache, nausea, and a dry tongue." This is the testimony of an *old school physician*, of high standing.

Says the United States Dispensatory—the text book of formulas, for all Apothecaries and old school physicians:—"In very small quantities, it occasionally gives rise to excessive sickness, and vomiting, and even spasms, of the stomach; in other cases restlessness, headache, and delirium; and we have known it even in large doses, to occasion obstinate wakefulness.—The headache, tremors, etc., *which* USUALLY *follow*, in a slight degree, are

uniformly experienced to such an extent, by some persons, as to render their use very inconvenient."

"In chronic diseases;" says Dr. Bigelow, of Boston; "we give opium to mitigate the symptoms, *without any hope of effecting a cure;* but if life should be unfortunately prolonged for several months, the dose must be increased, till we are obliged to give a very large quantity; the patient becomes feverish and fretful under its influence; and various bad symptoms are apt to arise. Hence, opinion *is an evil, in such cases.*"

Will the reader observe the above evidence. The Professor acknowledges that the direct consequences of giving opium, are, "feverishness and fretfulness," as well as various *bad* symptoms." And, if any of our readers have friends, in ill-health, who are gradually becoming peevish and fretful, while using the poison, "lay not this sin to their charge."

An idea is prevalent, in the community, and is *being circulated* quite extensively, that morphia is, compared with opium, very harmless. This is not only untrue, but is working a vast amount of injury. "*Morphia is the poisonous principle of opium. A single grain has been known to produce death.* Sprinkled upon a wound, it produces death." "A girl came to the Mass. Hospital, with an obstinate nervous affection. He (Prof. B.) blistered the back of her hand, and ordered the application of morphia. After the second application, the Dr. went to the hospital, by accident, and found the girl completely narcotized; she was stupid, breathed only ten or twelve times in a minute, and would have died, had he not removed the plaster.' We quote the above from Dr. Bigelow. We shall continue the subject in the next Enquirer. W.

Poisons Condemned.

We take the following from a letter written by H. F. Johnson to the Bot. Med. Recorder. It shows us that the Botanics are not alone in their condemnation of the Allopathic practice of the present day, and when the people get the scales of prejudice and ignorance from their eyes, so as to behold the practice in all its naked deformity, they will speedily abandon it, nor longer maintain the ridiculous and fatal idea, that what is most efficient in destroying vitality is best calculated to remove disease. A.

I have not lost my interest in your labors by going to the Emporium of Medical Investigations, neither have I determined to falter in the least in my purpose to labor for an entire and unconditional revolution in medical practice [Amen] by sitting under the public instruction of such men as Baron Louis, Velpeau, Chomel, Roger, Andral and Ruox. No, sir, I am fully satisfied that poisons of all descriptions *never were* and *never can be remedial agents.* That nature's prescriptions are, in all cases, *innocuous.*

But, sir, perhaps you would be interested to know how and

where I spent my time while absent. [Yes, very much.—Ed.] I will give you a very brief history. I proceded directly from N. York to London, making only short stops in her majesty's dominions previous to my arrival in London, the proud metropolis of the world. Here I spent considerable time, visited all the places of public interest, attended at Bartholomew's, Guy's, University Hospital, &c., &c., saw the great men of England, visited patients in the wards of their hospitals, and examined their famous museums of Pathological Anatomy. I was well treated by them all, and enjoyed myself much, except when meditating upon the frightful havoc of life produced by poisonous drugs used as *remedies*. After spending the time I wished here, I proceeded to Paris and spent the remainder of the year there. I went directly to the Hospital and placed myself under the instructions of Baron Louis, the most remarkable and illustrious man in the world. I visited daily with him, for nearly six months, from two to four hundred patients, and I never saw him give but two doses of calomel to his patients in all that time. His remedies are mostly herbs, mild in their character and operation. He did not scruple to call American physicians a company of murderers for prescribing such doses of poison. He seldom or ever uses physic of any kind—often permitting patients to pass four or five days without a discharge from the bowels during typhoid fever. His most powerful physic is a mineral water, of which one and a half pints will usually move the bowels gently from one to three times.

As a man, he is one of the pleasantest, mildest, and most familiar men I ever knew. And his skill in investigating and diagnosing disease is wonderful, wonderful beyond all description. It is astonishing to see his patience in examining disease, and his decision is almost infallible.

I am fully satisfied from experience, as well as reason, that poisons *cannot be medicines*. French medical literature is precious in our case. Its recent publications are extremely rich, but they cannot be translated without being garbled and spoiled.

Abuse of the eyes.—One of the greatest abuses of the eyes, now prevalent, is reading in the cars while they are going upon the railroad. This practice we are sensible, has been injurious to our own eyes. With a bundle of exchange papers in our pocket, we have frequently felt unwilling to lose so much time as we have been liable to, while passing from the city some eighteen or twenty miles into the country, as has lately been our custom. Hence, to save the time, we have resorted to reading, until we have perceived its ill effects. The unsteadiness of the cars, the different degrees of light through which the reader is so suddenly carried, and the constant effort to see, all tend to effect the eyes unfavorably. We advise all to avoid reading while riding.—*Journal of Health.*

Frying as a Mode of Cooking.—This mode of cooking is more common in the Western States than any other; and in some families than all others together. Whether the meat be bacon, ham, pork, veal, chicken, mutton, or fish, the same ordeal is appointed it—it is to be fried. There are cases, too, in which the manner of doing it is horrible to think of. We have seen hams put over a hot fire full twenty minutes—till the whole house was filled with the fumes of burnt fat. A piece of manilla rope, cooked or uncooked, would be a delicacy compared to it: and as for digesting, we do not believe the stomach of a dog, alligator, or an anaconda, could make any impression upon it.

Housekeepers should know, that of all ways in which meats are cooked *that of frying is the worst for the health of those eating them.* The animal oils are at the best pronounced to be more obnoxious to the stomach than any other alimentary matters. The influence of heat upon them effects chemical changes, which render them worse still. In frying, meats absorb and retain a large quantity of fat which is for a considerable time subjected to a great heat; and is thus rendered unfit for the stomachs of children and weak people especially.

The cooking by broiling is far less objectionable, as the fat is separated from the meat, and escapes being heated to any such degree as in the former case. Broiling, baking, boiling, and stewing are all better in respect to the flavor they impart to meats, and are quite as easy when adequate preparations for them are made, and many times more favorable to health.

From all that we have seen, we are convinced that much of our western cooking is extremely vicious.—*Prairie Farmer.*

An editor once closed a flattering obituary by boasting that the deceased had never made an enemy during his life; to which another editor sarcastically added, that in all probability he never undertook to do any good in the world, for no such person ever failed of making enemies. A gentleman, in a brief article upon negative goodness, pithily says:

"Jenkings, the celebrated writing-master, used to say, that if people even suspected a man of trying to do good, they would try to kill him.

"Perhaps it was in revenge of this testimony, that people called Jenkings crazy. History is, alas! too much on the side of Jenkings in this matter. Who ever did any good, or attempted any, without bitter opposition from enemies, coldness from friends, and secret hindrances from professed supporters?

Never did any harm! Never made any enemies! Is this your utmost claim, most worthy citizen? The same may be said of a barber's block, a doll, a wax image, a cabbage head. Most worthy citizen! thou shalt be embalmed. Thou dost deserve a statue,

that is, thou dost deserve to have what thou hast been—a blockhead.—*Yankee Blade.*

The great superiority and certainty of Thomson's system, consist in the simplicity of his practice, and the safe and certain operation of his remedy. And, although Thomson seems to have been utterly unconscious of the hazards and difficulties of the established practice—yet, when these were brought to light, they served to confirm him in the value and universality of his discoveries, because, if all the wisdom of the schools, and genius, and ingenuity, of practitioners, had been baffled and confounded, through the lapse of four thousand years, it was evident that the discoverey of a universal remedy for fever, must be found in another department than that of the established science! And in that department Thomson rose to eminence, and received "his degree from the hand of nature." In that great laboratory of medical science, where nature makes our food and fashions our medicines, Thomson spent thirty years of his life. A quack is one, who, in unblushing ignorance, palms his detestable and deadly nostrums upon the public, of which he knows nothing! Thomson laid before the public, without a shadow of concealment, remedies, the healing virtues of which he had tested by a practice of thirty years; and with invariable and indisputable success, a success which, had I not seen, I should have deemed impossible. But some of the most learned of the faculty, who have attended to the effects of this new practice, have given their decided testimony to its power and its efficacy.—*Robinson.*

Vinegar and Pepper.—Drink as much vinegar as you please, and eat as much pepper as you can swallow, but you will not look more delicate. Foolish is the idea, prevalent among the ignorant and the thoughtless young women, that vinegar and pepper will give a beautiful tinge to their complexion, when, if the truth were known, these very articles are deleterious to health and give a feverish appearance to the face. If there are health and beauty in a female, they both are soon destroyed by the use of these articles, which they imagine will make them look blooming and fresh.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. Terms Cash.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S

And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers. Ribbons, Laces, &c.
ALSO all other kinds of Goods kept in the country which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.
Middleborough. November 15, 1846.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks, will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themselves of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in pursuing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - - $4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - - 5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - - 1 62 1-2 do do do
Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.
☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Weeks.*
Middleborough, Oct. 1, 1846. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, Central st., Boston, Ms.

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, DECEMBER 15, 1846. NO. 15.

Croup, or Cynanche Trachealis.

As the season is approaching when this disease is most liable to occur, it may be not be inappropriate to notice it briefly, as well as the treatment, which, according to the principles of the reformed practice, it demands.

"A day or two before an attack, the child appears drowsy, inactive, and fretful; the eyes are somewhat suffused and heavy; and there is a cough, which has a very shrill sound. As the disease advances, the cough is loud and ringing; and the breathing, much oppressed, is accompanied with a wheezing sound. The face is flushed, and hot. In an advanced stage of the disease, respiration becomes still more difficult, and is effected by a degree of spasm; being repeated at longer periods, and with greater exertions, until at last it ceases entirely."

Treatment.—All Botanics agree in the treatment which this terrible malady demands. Lobelia emetics, putting the feet in hot water, enemata to the bowels, and perspiration, are the first means to be used.—As soon as the vomiting ceases, the system is then to be put under the influence of lobelia, in broken doses, in connection with composition.—By applying these means faithfully, in season, a few hours only are necessary to remove the disease.

But there is one point that ought to be borne in mind:—and that is—that the disease often proceeds to fatality, *in a very few* hours. Hence, the necessity of employing the measures, as soon as possible, after the symptoms arise. Every person that has children liable to an attack of croup, ought to be provided with the tincture of lobelia. Many persons reside such a distance from a physician, that they cannot possibly call one, after some attacks of the disease under consideration, in season for any assistance to be rendered. And when we reflect that by obtaintaining a small portion of this article, a child's life may be saved, one would suppose *that* to be a sufficient motive for so doing. One thing more. When speaking of the good effects of lobelia, or any other article of the *Materia Medica*, we speak, of course, of the *genuine* articles, such, and such only, as are obtained directly from those by whom they are prepared.

While upon the subject of the treatment of croup, we remark further, that reformed practitioners make no use of any purgatives, believing them to be instrumental of more evil than good. They make no

use of ipecacuanha. And, indeed, it seems very surprising, how any physician can use it, when by so doing, an article that is always sure in its operation—never produces any injury—is neglected for one that possesses all of the opposite characteristics. Ipecacuanha is *not* sure to vomit—many times it utterly fails to do so. The United States Dispensatory only claims for it, "that it is *tolerably* sure." It is liable to purge—it has frequently the opposite effect from the one desired in croup—that is, it frequently braces, instead of relaxing. It is put down in the old school authorities, as "*tonic*." Dr. Eberle says, "that it manifests "*narcotic powers*." We know a gentleman, who formerly, in connection with another gentleman, conducted an apothecary shop in this town. This gentleman could not deal out ipecacuanha in the smallest doses, without being so "stuffed," as to cause him to cease dealing it out. *And yet, this article* is frequently, in a great degree, *depended upon, in connection with senna, &c., to cure the croup! Need* we wonder that the croup is so fatal, when the physical laws of our being are so outraged?

We will give a case or two. Some years since, a child five months old, was seized in this town, with the croup. An old school physician was called. Ipecacuanha, senna, etc, were freely administered, but all to no purpose. The child rapidly failed. When hope had nearly fled, a relative advised the father very strongly to give lobelia, but he would not consent. The relatives, however, sent after the "dreadful poison." The child continued to fail. At length, the father placed the child in her arms, saying, as he did so, "She is beyond the reach of medicine. She is dying. Do what you please." To all appearance, this was the case. The old lady commenced, by giving a teaspoonful of the lobelia. The feet were then put into hot water. An enemata was then administered. The quantity of ipecacuanha that passed from the bowels, was surprising, and showed that it had been faithfully tested, without effect. A second dose of the lobelia was then administered, and immediately the breathing was more easy. After a short interval, a third was given, which gave rise to copious vomiting. This relieved the child to such a degree, that a sweet sleep fell upon it, and the disease was very soon subdued.

Here is a case in which the prescriptions of the physician entirely failed—the father refused to have any of nature's remedies tested, until satisfied that the child was dying—and yet, a very few hours placed the child beyond danger, and subdued the disease very speedily. We may add, that that father is now a staunch supporter of the reformed practice. Need any wonder?

Another case. The writer some time since, was about four miles from this place, administering an emetic. A gentleman came in, and wished him to call and see his child, who, he thought, had been seized with the croup. The writer went immediately. When he entered the

apartment where the child was, it was unable to breath, except by coughing. Probably the child could not have lived until a messenger could have reached the residence of any physician. A small quantity of lobelia was ordered as soon as possible, and the throat was bathed with the stimulating liniment. In about one fourth of an hour after the medicine was given, the child was at play upon the floor; while the writer having left medicine to guard against a relapse, returned to his first patient. Such is *one of the* "*awful* effects" of that "*dreadful poison, so extremely liable to act upon the brain!*" How different are the results where nature's remedies are used, from what they are when the poisons of art are used.

The writer has had quite a large number of cases of the croup since he has been in practice; and in no case have the remedies failed, in relieving the spasm within thirty minutes. Excepting one case, the disease has been entirely subdued in six hours. *Are* not these remedies superior to those of the old school? Else; why this difference in the results? W.

Dr. Thomson.

Says a writer in a criticism on Coleridge, "The essential originality and life of a poem consists, in containing within itself the laws by which it is to be judged." The same may be said of all truly original great men. Their minds have extended beyond the common bounds of human thought, they have examined nature with a keener perception, and from a different point of view, and to test the results of their investigations—the new principles and laws which they develope, by what existed before them, is to fetter the human mind in all its attempts at advancement, and prevent all further progress in science or art.

And yet this is the course almost universally pursued by those who have assumed the position of teachers of true science. They believe—or profess to—that what they uphold is true, or if they admit imperfections in the minor parts of the system, it does not effect the main fundamental principles, those being founded in truth, and directing them in the only true path leading to the desired object.

So that if another, by taking a different view of that department of nature, by turning aside from the long beaten track, should discover other laws, and unfold other principles at variance with the standard already erected, they are at once unceremoniously condemned by the learned. Especially is this the case, if the principles discovered are calculated to revolutionize the science to which they apply, and the discoverer does not belong to the class of regular constituted teachers of that science. Instead of examining those principles by the light inherent in them, they declare them false, because they shed no lustre upon the long beaten track. It has been thus in Religion, in Astronomy, in Philosophy, and in Medicine.

The principles which lie at the foundation of Dr. Thomson's practice, are completely at variance with those taught in the schools. They resulted from a deeper investigation into the recesses of nature, a search untrammelled by false theories and scholastic prejudices, and were calculated to subvert the old system of depletion and poison, and hence the opposition they meet with from the advocates of that system. The bold declaration, that disease is a unit, caused by some obstruction of the vital power, and that the process of cure is, to remove those obstructions by agents acting in harmony with, and assisting the vital power,—thus at once discarding entirely, the destructive process of depletion and poisoning, the very life and soul of the Allopathic practice,—such a declaration was well calculated to arouse the defenders of that practice, and cause them to spit forth their venom, and raise the cry of quackery and imposture. And yet, who that knows anything of the laws which govern the animal economy, using the reason and common sense which God has given him, cannot perceive the truth of that declaration, and be cheered by the hope, which to thousands has become a reality, that the same Being who made us subject to disease, has provided a remedy acting in harmony with the laws of life for the removal of that disease.

It is for the promulgation of these principles, which lie at the foundation of all true medical science, and his skill and success in applying them to the healing art, that stamps Dr. Thomson the greatest medical reformer of ancient or modern times. A.

Case of Miss Clary D.

BY ALPHONSO TESTE, M. D., PARIS.

Miss Clary is twelve years of age at the most. Nature has endowed her with a precocious intellect, but at the same time with a delicate constitution, which the cruel disease under which she is laboring easily exhausted.

On the 6th of May, 1840, I saw her for the first time. She was in her bed, her face emaciated and pale, pulse feverish, skin hot.—A hasty examination satisfied me that there existed, 1. A tuberculous abscess in the superior lobe of the right lung; 2. Tubercles of considerable size in the mesentery; 3. A gastro-inestinal affection, which might probably be only consequences of the preceding organic alterations.

As we see, the case was more than serious, it was desperate.—Miss Clary had phthisis in, at least, its second stage. However, I ascertained the treatment which had been followed up to that time. If all the old women of the province had assembled at Madame D.'s, to prescribe for her daughter, a more strange, complicated, and barbarous treatment could not have been devised. It consisted of live pigeons with their throats cut, with which the patient's feet

were covered or shod; of plasters with which the abdomen and chest were covered; fumigations of all kinds, drugs, tisans, mixtures, such as no apothecary ever made up. In a word, a lucid somnambulist had passsed by that way; one of those somnambulists who live privately on the credulity of fools or of hopeless invalids, and who sometimes make us blush at being magnetizers. Miss Clary was magnetised. The poor child was put to sleep at once, and at once she astonished her family by her lucidity. Unfortunately she never had that which would have been most necessary to her. Miss Clary saw her disease, described it accurately, as far as one could judge, but the *instinct of remedies* was wanting, and she never could succeed in prescribing a course of treatment for herself. Here we subjoin a succinct account of the last sitting where she was put to sleep :—

"How do you find yourself, Miss Clary?"

"Very ill."

"Where do you feel pain?"

"Every where."

"But where do you suffer most?"

"In the bowels."

"In what part?"

"Below the stomach."

"Do you see your intestines?"

"Yes, sir."

"And what do you see?"

"Red spots of blood, and others of a blackish color. Then in one place, about the length of my hand, a vast number of small red pimples."

"Is that all?"

"Yes, sir."

"In what state do you see your lungs?"

"As if they were dried up."

"Do they not seem to be traversed with *white grains* in their upper part?"

"I do not *see* clearly enough to be able to say."

"And do you not know what you ought to take to cure you?"

"No, sir."

"How will you go on to-morrow?"

"A little better than to-day."

"After to-morrow?"

"I shall have a good deal of fever."

"How will you be on the 25th of this month?"

"Very ill."

"On the 1st of June?"

"Worse still; my entire body will be swollen."

"And then?"

"On the 2d and 3d, oh! how sick I shall be!—my God!—my God!"

"And then?"

"Wait!"

Miss Clary hesitates, reflects a long time, at length she says, "The 4th I cease to see."

She was aroused, retained no recollection of any think she had said, and I expressly advised that she should not be spoken to on the subject; however, everything occurred almost precisely as she had predicted up to the 4th of June, the day on which Miss Clary died.

The case is curious in more respects than one. First, it is an undeniable proof of the prevision of somnambulists; but, besides, this prevision brings with it a sort of hopeless fatality, since whatever method of treatment be followed, the event must take place, and death occur at the predicted hour, and without there being any means whatever of retarding it by a single hour.

"The Botanico-Medical College.—Since we noticed this College two years ago, a large building for its accommodation, through the enterprise of its founder, Dr. Curtis, has been erected on Broadway, between Lower Market and Third streets. It is forty feet by ninety, and five stories in height. It contains an entrance room and museum, a hall forty by ninety, for public lectures, three lecture rooms, a commodious anatomical apartment, three private rooms for the professors of anatomy and chemistry. Each lecture room will contain two hundred and fifty students, and the hall for public lectures, when completed, will accommodate a thousand persons.

The "Bazaar," we learn, has been converted into an Infirmary, under the superintendance of Drs. Whittemore and Stockwell, the patients being treated in accordance with the peculiar Therapeutic principles taught in the College.

Dr. Curtis, the head of the Institution, is one of the most energetic men of the city."—*Cincinnati Morning Herald.*

Rules for Preserving the Eye Sight.—Reading or writing in the dusk of the evening, or by candle-light, is highly prejudicial. The frivolous attention to a quarter of an hour at the decline of day, has deprived numbers of the perfect and comfortable use of their eyes for many years: the mischief is effected imperceptibly, the consequences are often irreparable.

There is nothing which preserves the sight longer, than always using, in reading, writing, sewing, and every other occupation in which the eyes are constantly exercised, that moderate degree of light which is best suited to them; too little strains them, too great a quantity dazzles and confounds them. The eyes are less affected, however, by a deficiency of light than by the excess of it.—The former seldom does much, if any harm, unless the eyes are strained by efforts to view objects to which the degree of light is

inadequate—but too great a quantity has, by its own power, destroyed the sight.

The long-sighted should accustom themselves to read with rather less light, and with the book somewhat nearer to the eye than they ordinarily desire; while those that are short-sighted should, on the contrary, use themselves to read with the book as far off as possible. By these means both may improve and strengthen their vision, whereas a contrary course will increase its natural imperfections.

Bathing the eyes daily in cold or tepid water tends to preserve the integrity of their functions; provided, however, the individual does not immediately after such bathing enter a warm room or unnecessarily exert his sight.—*Journal of Health.*

[From the Water-Cure Journal.]

Water-Cure in Pregnancy and Child-Birth.

We have at different times given accounts illustrating the effects of a judicious and well-regulated course of bathing, exercise, and diet in pregnancy and child-birth. We could add many other cases to those we have before given, a number of which have come under our own care during the past weeks of the hot season, a time decidedly unfavorable in which to pass through the trials of the above-mentioned period. We not unfrequently experience the satisfaction of testimony similar to the following:

"I have for four years practiced bathing, more or less, and adopted the Graham system of living, by which my health has been greatly improved. It is now the seventh day since the birth of my sixth child, and I have been up and about the house every day.—The second morning, I arose, washed and dressed myself. This astonishes my neighbors, as they know that, at former times, I have been confined to my bed a long time. What makes it the more strange, my constitution is nothing but a wreck of humanity repaired, having been given up to die by physicians, who all said I had the consumption. But the information I have received from your invaluable journal I am truly grateful for, as it has been of the greatest benefit to me, and I shall endeavor, by all means in my power, to obtain new subscribers. It is really astonishing to see people paying large sums of money to physicians, and expecting pity and sympathy for being sick so much, when they could, by small expense, and so simple means as water-cure, become so much more benefitted." Yours respectfully, EMILY HOTCHKISS.

PEACH MEAT PREPARATION & NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL.
ALSO—BLACKBERRY SYRUP AND PEACH CORDIAL.
[THE LAST DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.]

THESE compounds are very beneficial in Diarrhœa, Dysentary, &c., particularly in the forming stage of the disease.

An immediate use of proper remedies in such complaints often prevents protracted sickness. Prepared and sold at the MEDICAL HERBARIUM,
Fall River, Aug. 15, 1846. *Opposite the Mount Hope House.*

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;
LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;
Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers. Ribbons, Laces, &c.
ALSO all other kinds of Goods kept in the country which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.
Middleborough, November 15, 1846.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks, will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themselves of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in pursuing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - -	$4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - -	5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - -	1 62 1-2 do do do

Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.
☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Weeks.*
Middleborough, Oct. 1, 1846. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, JANUARY 1, 1848. NO. 16.

Teeth Extracted without Pain!

The most, if not all, of our readers, have heard of the wonders now being done by surgeons, while their patients are under the influence of the wonderful "anodyne vapor," or "ethereal compound." In the language at the head of this article: "teeth can be extracted without pain;" and other surgical operations are also reported as having been done without suffering.

The whole matter has excited so much attention, that a meeting of the Dentists of Boston, members of the Mass. Med. Society, has been recently held, and they have put forth a report of a committee, a synopsis of which is annexed. We would gladly publish the report, itself, but it is too lengthy for our columns.

Synopsis.—They hail the discovery as a messenger of glad tidings, to many of the diseased and suffering; that the vapor of sulphuric ether, inhaled for a few moments only, will, in a majority of cases, produce such a degree of inebriation or stupor, as will allow great violence to be done to the body, without there being any, or but slight, consciousness of pain. Dr. C. T. Jackson is the only person to whom society is indebted for the discovery.—Quite a panegyric is passed upon Dr. J. Great caution ought to be used while administering the vapor, with regard to age, temperament, health, and habits. A fair trial of it has hardly been commenced, there having been only some half a dozen experiments in the Mass. Gen. Hospital.—The symptoms which attend its presence, are thus stated—Agitation of the system—violent coughing—determination of blood to the brain and eyes—distortion of the features; followed by general prostration—laborious breathing—anxiety—sighing—groaning—fright—and delirium. It must be injurious to those pre-disposed to apoplexy—to congestion of the brain—to diseases of the heart—to all pulmonary or bronchial affections.—[As well as all persons who may be pre-disposed *to health*.] It will not be so great a favorite as many have anticipated. It ought to be entrusted only to the hands of M. D.'s. [This is all gammon. They know just as much—no more—no less—as though they had not the M. D. Therefore, *because* they have the M. D., they must have the monopoly of every new discovery! In this case, as well as many other cases, it is evident that they know no more than others do. Then why should the matter be monopolized wholly by them? This is another illustration of the adage: 'Give an inch, take an ell.'] Several cases where serious effects followed its use, are then noticed. In two cases; eyes blood-shot—breathing stentorious—slight frothing at the mouth. In two cases, after leaving 'the operating-room,' the patients were seized with delirium. One remained so, with short intervals, for three days. The other, during the night succeed-

ing, raised about a pint of blood from the lungs—continued sick through three days and nights. They know of no *permamently* serious effects following its inhalation. [It is not yet time to decide whether there are, or not.] The whole matter should be referred to a committee of the Mass. Med. Society; or Boston Association of Surgeons and Physicians, to report *at such time and in such manner as they shall see fit!* [That is, let the public know just as much as it is for the interest of the Medical Society for them to know, and *no more.* Let them investigate; but make a report to the *public*, *of all the facts.*] The whole subject is now kept concealed as much as possible from *them.* [Oh! horrible! The Mass. Med. Society are not informed concerning this potent agent, by some one, *not* a member! That is awful! It ought to be ridiculous for any one out of this society, to know any thing!] The patent is believed to be invalid. They protest against buying the patent, or using it as a secret medicine. [Still, all but the members of this society, ought to use secret medicines! What proportion of the members of that society are willing to inform their patients what medicines *they* are using? 'Doctor,' said a lady in this town, to a physician, who had just left some pills, 'what kind of pills are these?' 'Two legged pills, ma'am,' was the scientific reply.—*Now*, some one has a medicine that is producing most astonishing effects, and will not inform their physicians, what it is? They now have an opportunity of being done to, as they do to others, and what an outcry is raised!] They conclude by saying, that their motive in putting forth this report, is to answer questions put to them by their fellow citizens. [One *effect* of the report will be, to lead people to abstain from the use of an article which these persons do not know how to use. Did they not know this fact before the report was published?] W.

The Journal of Health and Practical Educator,

Is the title of a neat and interesting monthly Periodical, published in Boston, edited by W. M. Cornell. Price $1,00 per year. Its object is to develope and explain the laws of health, and to make Physiology a branch of education;—not merely to be studied, (its laws being violated in the very act of learning them,) but that our sytem of education may be based upon, and directed by, the laws of life and health; so that the physical and moral, as well as the intellectual, part of man, may be properly developed. A noble object, worthy the strenuous exertions of the great and good.

"But" (we quote from the Preface) "before this can be accomplished, the science of human life and healthful existence must be divested of technical terms, and brought down to the capacity of every instructor of youth, in training men for present and future existence. To aid in accomplishing these things, so much desired, is the object of this Journal."

Such a periodical should have an extensive circulation, and should especially be patronized by teachers, and those having charge of the young.

Physiology needs to be yet more closely investigated, and its laws, and the importance of observing them, much more fully impressed upon the

public mind. It should be urged upon all classes, as a serious and an important truth, that the laws of life and health cannot be violated by ourselves, or trampled upon by the physician, without entailing upon us a penalty in proportion to the extent of their violation. A

Philosophical Apparatus!

A valuable collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronometer, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarseness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats. Also Syringes of all kinds. W.

Manslaughter if not Murder.

In the Boston Olive Branch, a very excellent paper, "devoted to christianity, mutual rights, polite literature, agriculture and the arts," we find the following benevolent caution and advice:

"'Hannah and Lucretia Brown, boarders in the family of Dr. Dan. King, at Woonsocket, were almost fatally burnt by the explosion of a lamp, filled with *burning fluid.* There is nothing equal to spermaceti for a safe and pleasant light.'—*Post.*

"We advise people at once and forever, to give up the use of all those liquids offered under the name of *camphine*, and various other liquids of that class: they are all substantially the same thing, and are dangerous to life and to property. We advise insurance offices universally to insert a clause in their policies, excepting insurances against fires occurring from the use of those articles.

"*Camphine* is composed of *alcohol* and *spirits of turpentine;* generally about eighty parts of alcohol to twenty of spirits of turpentine. Both of these articles are dangerous to use, and have cost the lives of hundreds of women and children, and that of many men, besides the destruction of tens of thousands of dollars worth of property. Its sale and use for such purposes should be prohibited by law. Pedlars are going round and selling recipes and rights to manufacture and use the article. They should be indicted for circulating a nuisance, and for obtaining money under false pretences. There is no form under which the articles can be safely used. Every store should cease at once to sell the noxious fluid."

Good and right it is thus to speak, Mr. Olive Branch. The people should always be warned against the use of every dangerous article. Please be consistent, and try your hand next time in a caution against other articles a thousand times more dangerous than *camphine.* Take from the same paper in which the above is

found, the following text : viz :

" Upon one occasion the Caffres routed a detachment [of British] convoying the hospital stores, all of which were captured.—Their victory proved the death of more than two hundred of them, by eating the salves and drinking the laudanum, and other fluids."

Now, Mr. Olive Branch, the Recorder is a very humane and charitable man ; he wants very much to know how it can be that the stores of provisions, which were to save the lives of the British, should kill oughtright two hundred Caffres? or how the same articles dealt out daily, to all the fashionable people of this country, should prove the best means the world has ever known to heal our diseases? Or how can you pity the ignorance of the poor Caffres which led them to destruction, and not feel a holy indignation at the half enlightened stupidity, folly, and madness of our refined community, as manifested in swallowing the same instruments of misery and death? or whether, instead of giving the same deadly engines to our soldiers in Mexico, and killing of one-third to one-half of them, as we do, it would not be better " policy in war," and charity to " home" at least, to mix some of the same precious " stores with the bread and meat for *our* army, start, full speed, after the Mexicans, and when in full view of the vile castilio Americans, beat up a retreat, leaving said provisions to do their work of death all on one side? More questions when you have answered these. Don't startle at this last suggestion—it is only what is actually done (and more also) every day in your own enlightened and very moral and religious city, and by those who profess to stand at the top of the heap in works of piety and mercy.—They give the laudanum and the essentials of the ointments every day to the helpless women and children, and by these means " thousands of precious companions," (Lobstein,) and " innumerable infants," (Eberle,) are sent to an untimely grave, or made to endure ceaseless suffering, with " extreme debility and emaciation, stiff and incurvated limbs, a total loss of teeth and appetite, till death, in a few years, with a friendly stroke, puts a period to their sufferings." (Good.)

Please tell the Recorder and his brother humanity, his sister charity and his mother truth, how these things are to be reconciled, and if they cannot be, how much longer they are to tolerated?

But here is another text for you, Mr. Olive Branch. It is from the Montpelier, Vt., Daily Journal.

" *Death of a Member of the House.*—We have a melancholy duty to perform, in announcing the very sudden death, on Sunday morning, at his room at the Pavillion, of Dr. William Cullen Warner, representative of the town of Bristol, aged forty-two years.—By a grievous mistake, Dr. Warner took a large dose of strychnine, which, in spite of the immediate services of a physician, resulted in death in the space of ten minutes."

The whole town made a great fuss about it, as if it were some-

thing uncommon. Not knowing that strytchnine is given daily "as a medicine," the editor says:

"*Be careful.*—The melancholy death of Dr. Warner has occasioned many a one to tremble, lest he should become the victim of a similar mistake on the part of physicians. Doctor Warner, doubtless, intended to take a moderate dose of morphine, for the relief of neuralgia, but he very unfortunately substituted a dose of one of the most virulent poisons known—strychnine or nux vomica, half a grain of which, blown into the nostrils of a rabbit, will produce lock-jaw and tetanus of the whole system, and death, in the space of five minutes. Such were the comparatively instantaneous effects upon Doct. Warner. Physicians, be careful!"

Yes, physicians should be careful—and so should THE PEOPLE. For our part, we do not see why, if any body is to be killed by those abominable drugs, it is not best that the persons who administer them should be cut off—the slaying of a few of *them* will prevent the slaughter of thousands to whom they might have administered the same deadly poisons. Strychine is recommended by professors of medicine for a variety of nervous complaints, as tic doloreux, epilepsy, &c., and no doubt kills a multitude of its deluded recipients. But it escapes public anathemas because the death can be laid to their sickness!

We have even some professed medical reformers who use this article as well as the laudanum, &c., which was fatal to the poor Caffres!

Col. Curtis, of the Mexican troops, says, "I would rather risk in the north a battle once a week, than brave the diseases of this climate in the camp." Now the fact is, he has there a host of poison-dealing doctors who, the moment a northerner experiences some little disturbance of the bile from his change of climate, commence at once dealing out, in liberal measure, those time-sanctioned engines of destruction—and what wonder if they share the fate of the Vermont doctor? Their destruction may be rather slower indeed—more cautiously induced—but not the less sure.—See to it, all ye lovers of poison, there is death in the pot! Flee for your lives to the balms in Gilead—the hyssops for cleansing, the figs for poultices, and the leaves of the trees for the healing of the nations, or "by the life of Pharoah, surely ye are *all* dead men."—*B. M. Recorder.*

IRON BEDS.—This newly invented apparatus for sleeping, offers many advantages over feathers, on the score of health, while it detracts nothing from personal comfort. Iron beds are said to be thus constructed;—Coils or spirals of elastic-wire are placed upon a board, and secured in an upright position by means of stout canvass passing over them. Upon that is spread a little cotton batting, which is covered by the usual ticking, and you have a bed as soft as feathers, and far more elastic.

The Life Clock.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

There is a little mystic clock,
No human eye hath seen;
That beateth on—and beateth on,
From morning until e'en.

And when the soul is wrapped in sleep,
And heareth not a sound,
It ticks and ticks, the live-long night,
And never runneth down.

O wonderous is the work of art,
Which knells the passing hour,
But art near formed, nor mind conceived,
The life clock's magic power.

Nor set in gold, nor decked with gems,
By wealth and pride possessed;
But rich or poor, or high or low,
Each bears it in his breast.

When life's deep stream,'mid beds of flowers,
And still and softly glides,
Like the wavelet's step, with a gentle beat,
It warns of passing tides.

When threatening darkness gathers o'er
And Hope's bright visions flee,
Like the sullen stroke of the muffled oar,
It beateth heavily.

When passion nerves the warrior's arm
For deeds of hate and wrong,
Though heeded not the fearful sound,
The knell is deep and strong.

When eyes to eyes are gazing soft
And tender words are spoken,
Then fast and wild it rattles on,
As if with love 'twere broken.

Such is the clock that measures life,
Of flesh and spirit blended;
And thus 'twill run within the breast,
Till this strange life is ended.

WRINKLES.—Young woman, would you have wrinkles on your face? Not for the world, you reply. Then cease fretting, and murmuring, and repining. Rise at early dawn, take the broom, sweep the floor, make the beds, and get breakfast yourself. Such employment, with a cheerful heart, will keep you from growing prematurely old, and having your face lined with wrinkles and scowls.—*Portland Bulletin.*

[From the Western Medical Reformer.]

Effects of Mercury.

We called to see a man recently, who has been deprived of the use of his legs for fifty years. The following account of his misfortunes is from his own mouth:

"I was a healthy child—can remember when I could run about. When I was between five and six years old, I was somewhat unwell, supposed to be troubled with worms. A physician was passing, and my mother called him in. He left 8 or 10 powders to be taken, one in two or three hours after the other, until they should all be swallowed. Within 48 hours after I had commenced taking the medicine, my body and limbs were exceedingly swollen; so much so, that my parents became alarmed, and sent for another doctor. He appeared very angry, and swore some—wished to see the kind of medicine which I had been taking. A few powders of it remained, which he pronounced to be *calomel*. He gave me other medicine, which relieved me somewhat. My mother tried to make me stand, but my legs were like *wet cloths*, perfectly relaxed. They have grown a little in length, and are some larger than they were then, but not much. I was under the care of the last mentioned doctor for about a year. I am now fifty-five years old, and have enjoyed perfect health since I was seven years, but have had no use of my legs or feet."

Here is a man 55 years of age, in good health so far as the stomach, chest and head are concerned, of good intellect and sense, and very gentlemanly in his conversation, deprived of the use of his legs by the ignorance or gross carelessness, or at the least that can be said of it, by an unpardonable mistake of a physician. The consequence of this mal-practice to this man is beyond calculation. What knowledge is necessary for a physician! What caution in prescribing for the human body! What responsibility resting upon a doctor of medicine!

The human body is so wisely and wonderfully formed that whenever any noxious matter is got into it that would be injurious or destructive, we may observe, it always so irritates, stimulates and offends nature, that she always exerts her power, or the *vis vitæ* to throw it off. And she acts with great regularity, order, and uniformity, in her endeavors to expel the offending matter out of the body; and by carrying off the disease, restore health and preserve life.

And thus, by observing, investigating, and truly knowing the disease and their causes, and justly reasoning therefrom, we shall know when to assist nature according to her indications; and in this is contained the chief part of medical knowledge, and the true scientific principles of the medical art. And when we shall thus have learned of nature, by observing her laws and indications, we may reasonably hope to render the theory and practice of physic beneficial to mankind."—*Dr. Hillary.*

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica*," constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks. will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themselves of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in pursuing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - - $4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - - 5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - - - 1 62 1-2 do do do
Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Weeks.*

Middleborough, Oct. 1, 1846, JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers. Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO all other kinds of Goods kept in the country which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, November 15, 1846.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, JANUARY 15, 1847. NO. 17.

Galvanic Rings!

Of all the most barefaced, ridiculous, humbugs of the day, perhaps these Galvanic rings stand pre-eminent. Almost every pretension has some trash for a basis, before it is seen in public. But these are a notorious exception even to *this* rule.

All that are conversant with chemistry, know that in order for galvanism to be developed, it is necessary that the zinc and copper be so situated, that a third substance may develope and convey a current of galvanism from the one to the other. This is absolutely necessary, else there will be no galvanism developed. Usually, both the copper and zinc are together, in a vessel containing an acid. Sometimes the zinc is put into a copper vessel which has previously been filled with acid. At all events, the presence of a third substance *is necessary*, in order to establish the galvanic current.—Any one not having seen a galvanic battery, can do so by calling at any one of our High School Academies, or at either of the editors' offices. It may be proper to say, that galvanism is now being used with much advantage in the treatment of many diseases.

But now apply the principle upon which galvanism is developed, as stated above, to the so called "*galvanic rings!*" What an absurdity! what an open handed attempt to swindle money from those not well informed upon this subject! The "*ring*" is composed, *simply*, of these *metals*, *in direct contact with each other!* No acid or third substance is present to excite the current, and even if there were, (the metals being in immediate contact,) there could be no galvanism developed.

As for any salutary effect, one might as well cut off a brass ring from a curtain, and wear it, expecting, with much faith, to be speedily relieved from some dire calamity, as to wear one of these much lauded "galvanic rings"—*alias* galvanic humbugs. And yet, the worthless articles are bought and palmed off, as doing wonderful cures. One would think the age of Baron Maunchausen had returned.

This, however, is only a natural consequence of the want of information on medical subjects. If people will inform themselves—understand their systems—know what every remedy offered them for disease, is—know its nature, and the effects it usually gives rise to—refuse all advice that is not explained, so that they can understand the principles upon which it is offered;—they will save much money—save themselves much sickness; and save themselves from being imposed upon every time it may be for the interest of some unprincipled biped to take advantage of their ignorance.

W.

Such of you as might be disposed to question the depressing influences of a long face upon the sick, may read the history of Lord Anson's voyages with profit. There you will find it recorded, "that whatever discouraged the seamen, or at any time damped their hopes, never failed to add new vigor to the distemper (the Scurvy,) for it usually killed those who were in the last stages of it, and confined those to their hammocks who were before capable of some kind of duty." And this is in perfect accordance with the observation of Solomon, that "a merry heart doeth good like medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Let me, therefore, counsel you not only to assume a cheerful look, in the presence of the sick, but endeavor at the same time in Byron's words,

> To render with your *Precepts* less
> The sum of human wretchedness,
> And STRENGTHEN man with HIS OWN MIND.

What are all your trumpery Pathology and Dissecting-Room knowledge compared with this? You may dissect dead bodies for twenty years and never be one whit the wiser on the mode of influencing the motions of the living. Now, this brings to my mind certain lines of a cotemporary poet, the celebrated Beranger; but as some of you may not understand the French language, I shall offer no apology for giving you his sentiments in my own not over poetical English:—

> Was ever such an ass as that
> Who hoped by slicing mutton-fat,
> And pulling candle-wicks to pieces,
> To tell why *Light* should spring from *Greases?*
> Yes, one—that still more precious fool,
> Who in the anatomic school
> Expected with dissecting knife
> To learn from *Death* the laws of *Life!*
>
> Ha! ha! I'd rather beg some old
> Domestic nurse to cure my cold,
> Than trust to such pedantic brain
> To wake *my* lamp's low flame again!

But seriously, Gentlemen, I have known a great many first-rate anatomists in my time; yet there are old women who never saw the inside of a dead body, whom I would sooner consult in my own case than any of these hair-splitting gentry. These men are mere geographers, who will point out rivers and towns, if I may say so,—corporeal hills, dales, and plains, but who know nothing of the manners, customs, or mode of influencing the animated atoms constantly entering into and departing from them. If any such mechanical-minded creature presume hereafter to mystify you on this point, tell him to watch the wounded of contending armies; and ask him to explain to you why the same description of injuries which heal with rapidity when occurring in the persons of the vic-

tors, too often prove intractable, or even fatal, to the vanquished! He might dissect their dead *nerves* as clean as he pleased, and never find out that the living body of man may be either weakened or strengthened through the medium of his own mind.—*S. Dickson, M. D., London.*

Tea and Coffee.

Tea and coffee consume a vast amount of human existence.—The time expended in earning the money to pay for the vast consumption of these articles, the time taken in cultivating and curing, in transporting and selling them, in paying for, and setting, and cleansing the China sets, and above all, the two or more hours' time of one person for each of the 2,000,000 families in the U. S., spent daily in preparing these articles, would, of itself, make from 1,200 to 1,500 *years*, or some THIRTY LIVES consumed EVERY DAY, just in the one single item of COOKING these worse than useless drugs. Now add all these items together, and extend the estimate to all that use them, and what a vast consumption of human existence is thus brought to view, which might otherwise be expended upon the exercise of the moral and intellectual faculties! Let tea and coffee drinkers never complain of a want of time for mental culture.

These decidedly injurious drugs are also a more prolific source of headaches and nervous affections than any other. An inveterate tea or coffee drinker is sure to be dreadfully afflicted with the headache, and often the sick headache. Another dose may indeed give temporary relief, but it is only to redouble the headache when its stimulating effect subsides.

They also decay the teeth, causing that terrible malady, the toothache, besides opening the pores and exposing to colds, thus inducing fevers, consumption, &c., and thereby increasing the waste of human existence by shortening life.

A still better example, first of the unnecessary wasting of existence, and secondly, of shortening life, might be adduced in the use of tobacco, that vilest and filthiest of narcotics. To see beardless boys strutting about sucking segars, betokens an early grave. A young or forming constitution cannot stand tea, or coffee, or tobacco. True, we occasionally see old people who have long used them, and also ardent spirits, but they did not begin till their bodies were fully matured, besides having originally powerful constitutions, of which few young people can now boast. If the public health decline for fifty years to come, as fast as it has for fifty years past, we shall be a weakly, miserable race indeed, and be surely supplanted by those who have not yet used these enervating, time-destroying, soul-and-body-killing fashions, luxuries, and extravagances.—*Fowler's Phrenological Journal.*

Opium and Mercury.

In a very learned and laborious work published by Dr. Pereira, one of the physicians to the London hospital, and chemical professor at that institution, entitled "Elements of Materia Medica," occur the following passages on the subjects of opium and mercury, two drugs more universally in use than any other two in the whole list. "Several physicians," says Dr. Pereira, "as Dr. John Murray, and Dr. Anthony Tod Thomson, consider opium to be primarily *stimulant;* some, as Drs. Cullen and Barbier, regard it as *sedative*" (that is, just the *contrary* to stimulant); "one, viz. Dr. Mayer, as *both*—that is, a stimulant to the nerves and circulatory system, but a sedative to the muscles and digestive organs; another, viz. Orfila, regards it as *neither;* while others, as Muller, call it *alterative.*" Now here are five different men holding no fewer than five different opinions with regard to the effects produced on the body by this deadly drug, opium. When these five physicians give opium, it is clear that they give it with the view of producing five different and contradictory effects!

But Dr. Pereira proceeds thus with regard to mercury: "Again, mercury is, by several writers, as Drs. Cullen, Young, Chapman, and Eberle, placed in the class of sialagogues; by many, as Drs. A. T. Thomson, Edwards, Vavasseur, Trouseau, and Pidoux, among excitants; by some, as Conradi, Bertele, and Horn, it is considered to be sedative; by one, Dr. Wilson Philip, to be *stimulant* in small doses, and *sedative* in large ones; by some, as Dr. John Murray, it is placed among tonics; by another, viz. Vogt, among the resolventia alterantia; by one, viz. Sundelin, among the liquifacients; by the followers of Broussais, as Begin, among revulsives; by the Italians, as Giaccomini, among contra stimulants, or hyposthenics; by others, as Barbier, among the *incertæ sedis*"—or those drugs whose modus operandi is not understood.

After reading such a statement as this, one can hardly be surprised that the word physician should have been defined to signify "a man who puts drugs, of which he knows nothing, into a stomach of which he knows less."—*Hydropathy, or Water-Cure.*

Cold Water and Warm Flannels.

The Boston Medical Journal, on the approach of cold weather advised every body to "put on your flannels." Per contra, an exchange says:—

Don't. A writer in the Hartford Times has thrown off his flannels and his rheumatisms at once, and has found health in the Jeffersonian practice of cold bathing. Two years ago he says I found my strength wasting under a succession of severe colds and protracted coughs. No sooner had I succeeded in curing one, than the first change of weather caused another. Probably there was

not a fortnight in the winter of 1844, in which I was free from a cold. A friend advised me to try cold bathing, and I resorted to it at once, and applied a thorough bath of cold water, fresh from the well, every morning. In two weeks' time I became stronger, and my cold left me. It has never returned. But I am careful to apply the cold water every morning, and it is now a luxury. I often expose myself, get my feet wet, &c., but I never take cold, nor have I seen a sick day from the time I commenced my daily cold baths.

Sulphuric Ether.

Extract of a Letter to Dr. Newton, Editor of the Medical Eclectic.—"As I am naturally, as well as educationally, rather jealous of all these powerful agents, I have, from the first, doubted the safety and expediency of using this article, and have not failed so to express myself on various occasions. I have been ready, for some time, to cry out, instinctively, as it were, against its use; and yet I had not the slightest idea of its *modus operandi*. To-day, Dr. Warren has given us a little light on the subject, which he discovered himself, in the following interesting manner, in the last operation he performed. *The operation* was upon the upper jaw; and, on making the first incision through the lip and soft parts, he noticed a very great flow of blood; but, as it was apparently *venous* blood, he paid but little attention to it, as he knew it could be easily staunched. But it continued to flow with great force during the operation, and, in fact until the patient was on the point of suffocation from that which had forced its way to her lungs. On revolving the subject in his mind for a while, the Dr. finally recollected another instance in which there was a flow of *venous blood*, (the patient having respired the gas,) which was quite uncommon in such cases. On still further reflection, the thought occurred to him, that the blood, in these two cases, apparently *venous*, was in reality from the *arteries*, in an *unoxygenated* condition. There must, then, be some cause for this strange state of things. He could attribute it to nothing but the *gas*;—atmospheric air was excluded from the lungs, almost entirely, and the patient was thrown into a state of asphyxia, the same as would follow from the inhalation of carbonic acid gas. In this way, insensibility was produced.

If this explanation be true,—and it is certainly a very plausible one,—the further use of this gas must be very limited. The great wonder is, that it could have been used so long without having done irreparable mischief. The patients, thus far, who have been operated upon, have *seemed* to do well; but for one, I have quite as much faith that *Mesmerism* is that peculiar agent which is destined to supply this all-important desideratum in the practice of surgery. Botanico Medicus."

National Beauty.

"Take your place on the Astor steps," said a young American to an English friend, "and look at the number of handsome, if not beautiful ladies, who are promenading on a gay and pleasant day, and tell me if any country on earth can produce a greater number."

We must not indulge in this national vanity, nor be deluded into the impression that our females are the most handsome of any country. It is not so. We have a larger proportion of handsome women, probably than most countries; but they are not seen in Broadway. We have the delicate and pensive beauty—the pale face—the mild blue eye—the flaxen hair—the tight laced form; these are seen in Broadway; but the romping country beauty—the rosy-cheeked, black-eyed girl—the unsophisticated, yet modest, well-instructed, and free-hearted beauties do not crib themselves in cities; and they must be sought for—caught like fawns.

In our estimate of beauty we fall into many errors. An expressive, intelligent countenance is more striking than a beautiful one, and more enduring—there is a variety which is always pleasing.—Probably, as a nation, there are no more beautiful women on the earth than in England—if a fair complexion, good eyes and teeth, and a ruddy countenance, constitute all the requisites of beauty; yet a French lady, without a moiety of all these advantages, passes for a handsome woman, simply because she is agreeable.

That countenance is most handsome where the mind lends a grace to the person—that mouth most beautiful from which issues good sense and just sentiments. The Astor steps are not the proper observatory of beauty.—*Times and Messenger.*

Vitiated Air in Apartments.

(L'Institut, No. 654, July 15, 1846, p. 240.)—M. Lassaigne has shown by a series of investigations, that, contrary to a common opinion, the air in a room which has served for respiration without being renewed, contains carbonic acid alike in every part, above as well as below; the difference in proportion is but slight, and where appreciable, there is some reason to believe that the carbonic acid is in greater quantity in the upper parts of the room. These experiments establish the very important fact that all the air of a room must be changed in order to restore its purity. The plans sometimes resorted to, to draw off the air in the lower part of the room, or change this portion only by circulation, are wholly ineffectual as a means of ventilation.—*American Journal of Science and Arts.*

Excess in *drinking* is almost as bad as excess in *eating.*—*Hippocrates.*

A Case of Uncommon Acuteness of the Sense of Vision.—There is living in this region, a young man of 23 or 24 years of age, who is reported as being able to see with his natural eye *animalculæ* in common well and spring water. This faculty was noticed when he was some 15 or 16 years of age, by persons for whom he was at work, in consequence of his refusing very often to drink water handed to him, in which nothing could be discovered by common eyes. I made some experiments with him, enough to be satisfied that his case was no hoax; and did intend to have made more, but lost sight of him, and suppose he has left the neighborhood. His complexion is fair, temperament sanguine, eyes blue, less than the common size, with very small pupils.—Dr. J. Dawson, in *Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*

Bathing.—It is wonderful that mankind, at the present day, claiming as they do, to be so much more enlightened in science and useful knowledge than the ancients, should yet be so far behind them in matters of this kind. In the Mosaic dispensation, the most rigorous regard was paid to bathing and cleanliness in every thing. One of the highest luxuries of Ancient Rome was bathing. The Mohammedans, the Hindoos, and many other portions of the human family, perform their daily ablutions as a religious duty. Yet the most intelligent portions of Christendom neglect it.—*S. Graham on Bathing.*

Intoxicating liquors and substances, with all their fearful energy to destroy, and all the tremendous evils they have done—and surely they are great!—terribly great!—have still caused less pain and untimely death, in the human family, than errors in the *quantity* and quality of food! A drunkard sometimes, though very rarely, reaches old age: a glutton never does!—*S. Graham.*

A Deep Burn or Scald.—Apply the inner rind of the elder well mixed with fresh butter. When this is bound on with a rag, plunge the part into cold water. This will suspend the pain till the medicine heals. Or mix lime-water and sweet oil to the thickness of cream, and apply it with a feather several times a day.—This is a most effectual application.

Bittersweet Ointment.—Take equal parts of plantain leaves and root, Bittersweet bark and Spikenard root, boil out the strength, strain and make it into an ointment with hog's lard. This ointment softens and relieves caked or inflamed breasts in a remarkable manner, and may be applied with advantage.

Strengthing Plaster.—Take the whites of two eggs, two handsful of white oak bark, one ounce of rosin, one ounce of alum, and half an ounce of camphor; boil the bark to half a pint, then add the rest, and simmer to a salve.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks, will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themselves of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in pursuing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - $4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - - 5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - - 1 62 1-2 do do do
Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Weeks.*

Middleborough, Oct. 1, 1846, JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers. Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO all other kinds of Goods kept in the country which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, November 15, 1846.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, FEBRUARY 1, 1847. NO. 18.

Arsenic.

The "*Weekly News*," in alluding to some attempts to commit suicide in this place, with arsenic, says, that "the Hydrated Sesqui Oxide of Iron, if administered in season, will give almost immediate relief."

But in such cases the poison must have produced much injury before the secret is revealed, and then the remedy not being at hand, will not often be procured in season to be employed with the best advantage. One reason why the above medicine will prove nearly useless unless speedily administered is, because whenever arsenic comes in contact with the mucous membrane of the stomach, it adheres to it, and soon becomes enveloped in a coat of mucous, which effectually prevents the antidote acting upon it.—The first thing to be done when it is ascertained that arsenic has been swallowed, is to give freely of milk, or sweet oil, which seem best calculated to shield the stomach, and envelope the powder. An emetic should then be speedily administered, after which the first named medicine may be given to neutralize any free arsenic that may remain in the stomach, using at the same time mucilages, &c., &c.

By the way, what an excellent medicine such a virulent poison must be; its tonic properties are certainly admirable. No one need die of debility, if they have at command a sufficient quantity of this corrosive poison. A.

N. E. Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, is the title of a paper published in Worcester, by C. Newton, M. D. It was at first called the "Eclectic."

We much prefer its present title; it is taking a more definite position—throwing out a banner which is at once recognized and hailed with pleasure by those who desire a thorough revolution in the healing art.

The true medical reformer cannot consider poisons as proper medicines, and those who use them, are certainly resting upon a sandy foundation, however much they may boast of their superior wisdom, and their ability to select the good from all systems, and reject the bad. We are well pleased with the Journal, and hope it may have an extensive circulation. A.

☞ We are sorry to learn, that our subscribers in Woonsocket have not received all their papers. They have been regularly sent, and we know no reason why they should not have been received. The blame certainly does not belong to us. We now send them by mail.

Dr. J. C. Davis.—The Enquirer has been regularly forwarded, and we presume is now in the Post Office at Providence.

Water Cure Journal.—We have not received a copy of this periodical since it commenced under the new arrangement. How is this, friend Shew?

[From the Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The Growth of the Beard Medically Considered.

It has been well remarked by physiologists, that "*Nature in her work is never superfluous.*" Our Creator, when he made man, formed him in his own image, *perfect*. Not only was the body fashioned comely and symmetrical in its proportions, but every part, every appendage, was given him for some wise and useful purpose. We therefore assert, that the practice of *shaving the beard*, and thus depriving the face, throat and chest of that efficient protection which nature has provided, is one of those pernicious customs which an imperious and blind *fashion* has introduced, and which has conduced materially to the production of the numerous diseases of the respiratory organs with which mankind are afflicted.

By referring to the customs of the ancients, both previous and for a long period subsequent to the time of our Saviour, it will be seen that it was customary to wear the hair and beard long. We also learn from the best authorities, that diseases of the throat and chest, as well as scrofula and analogous complaints, were of very rare occurrence among them. Indeed, we believe it to be a fact which cannot be controverted, that with those nations where the hair and beard are worn long, the people are more hardy and robust, and much less subject to diseases, particularly of a pulmonary character, than those who shave. The Turk, the Russ, the Greenlander, the Persian, &c., have been nearly exempt from bronchial and lung complaints, in comparison with the European and American. Nor can this be attributed to any climate influence, for no people are more exposed to atmospheric changes than the inhabitants of those northern regions.

Among the first who practised shaving the beard were soldiers of Alexander the Great, who were commanded to remove their beards in order that they might not serve as handles to the enemies in battle! When Louis XIII ascended the throne of France, in 1656, it was the custom of the inhabitants to allow their faces to remain as their Creator made them. This monarch, however, was a *beardless* youth, and thus, in order to ape royalty, was *shaving* introduced and beards proscribed. In Spain, also, was the fashion introduced in a similar manner. Philip V. was a *beardless boy*, and therefore, for fashion's sake, did his subjects, hitherto noble and manly in appearance, reduce themselves to this unnatural and childish state.

The hair being a bad conductor of caloric, is admirably calculated to retain the heat of those parts which it covers, and to protect the important organs within from the effects of cold and the constant atmospheric vicissitudes to which man must be exposed.

The importance of this protective agent will be appreciated when it is borne in mind how many inflammatory attacks are induced by the sudden application of cold, and by suppressing that

function so necessary to health, the perspiration. With a long and heavy beard, a man can brave with impunity, the "peltings of the pitiless storm," and bid defiance to the cold winds of winter, while a shaven and unguarded throat must succumb to the piercing blast.

For a number of years past, in all cases of "throat ail," bronchitis, catarrh, and debility of the lungs, it has been our practice to recommend the growth of the beard as an important auxilliary in restoring the parts to their normal state. The adoption of this advice has been attended, in every instance, with decided and happy results.

The question has been often asked, why clergymen are more troubled with affections of the throat, than lawyers and other public speakers. When it is borne in mind that nearly all ministers keep themselves shaved, while, in a majority of instances, lawyers, and others who are in the habit of speaking in public, permit the hair to grow under their chins, the answer will be apparent. The fact that the irritation is situated in that part of the larynx which is exposed, would seem to confirm the views we have taken.

Aside from its utility in a medical point of view, we are of opinion that a luxuriant and flowing beard adds to the grace and dignity of a man. As a smooth and soft face gives to the female that delicacy and tenderness which is so appropriate to her sphere, so does the beard give to the male the manly dignity and sternness of aspect which is so well adapted to him who is to brave the tempests of a rough world. We are aware of the delicate ground on which we tread when attempting to interfere with any prevailing mode, and we expect that every weazen-faced and sandy-haired individual will endeavor to ridicule and decry our benevolent efforts; but we shall persevere in our efforts to introduce a more close imitation, *physically* as well as *mentally*, of the wise and holy patriarchs of old. They, like good and true men, did not attempt to improve upon the workmanship of the great Architect of all, but preserved that distinctive mark between the sexes which the long and manly beard gave them.

It has been said that man is naturally subject to no disease except those which result from old age. And who can doubt, when contemplating the many barbarous customs of society, that there is much truth in the assertion? Behold how the beautiful female figure is constantly pressed out of all natural shape and symmetry, by the use of those "infernal machines," corsets and stays! See these waspish deformities pining through their brief career, and transmitting to their offspring the feeble and imperfect organization which such an utter perversion of nature's laws must ever inflict.

If there is propriety or reason in mutilating the body by shaving off the hair or contracting the diameter of the chest with corsets, &c., then there is propriety in arresting the growth of the feet *a la* Chinese, and flattening the bones of the cranium after the manner of the flat-head Indians.

Bleeding and Calomel.

Captain Owen, of the Royal Navy, who could neither have a theory to support nor any interested end to serve, one way or the other, details at great length the mortality which took place among his people while employed in surveying the African coast. "It may, in fact, be questioned," says this intelligent navigator, "whether our very severe losses were not, in some measure, attributable to European medical practice, BLEEDING *and* CALOMEL *being decidedly the most* DEADLY ENEMIES *in a tropical climate.*—During the whole time of the prevalence of the fever, we find not one instance of perfect recovery after a liberal application of the lancet or of this medicine." Capt. Owen farther states, that he himself recovered without either bleeding or calomel, while the ship-doctor fell a martyr to his medical faith,—he bled himself, took calomel, and died! [The above remarks were first printed in 1840. Two years afterwards, 12th November, 1842, extracts from the *Report of the Select Committee on the Western coast of Africa*, appeared in the *Times* newspaper, wherein among other things, is the following: "The bleeding system has fortunately gone out of fashion, and the frightful mortality that attended its practice, is now no longer known on board our ships."]—*S. Dickson, M. D., London.*

Indian Cure for Fever.

Dr. Bayard received a letter from Wm. Penn, as follows: "As I find the Indians upon the continent more incident to fevers than any other distempers, so they rarely fail to cure them by great sweatings, and immediately plunging themselves into cold water, which they say is the only way not to catch colds. I once saw an instance of it with divers more in company. Being upon a discovery of the back part of the country, I called upon an Indian of note, whose name was Tennoughan, the captain general of the clans of Indians in those parts. I found him ill of a fever, his head and limbs much affected with pain, and at the same time his wife preparing a *bagnio* for him. The bagnio resembled a large oven, into which he crept by a door on the one side, while she put several hot stones in a small door on the other side thereof, and then fastened the doors as closely from the air as she could.—Now while he was sweating in his bagnio, his wife (for they disdained no service) was, with an axe, cutting her husband a passage into the river, (being the winter of 1683, the great frost, and the ice being thick, in order to the immersing himself after he should come out the bath. In less than half an hour, he was in so great a sweat, that when he came out he was as wet as if he had come out of a river, and the reek and steam of his body so thick, that it was hard to discern any body's face that stood near him. In this condition, stark naked, a body cloth only excepted, he ran to the

river, which was about twenty paces, and ducked himself twice or thrice therein, and so returned, passing only through his bagnio, to mitigate the immense stroke of the cold, to his own house, perhaps twenty paces farther, and wrapping himself in his woolen mantle, laying down at his length, near a long but gentle fire, in the middle of his wigwam, or house, turning himself several times till dry, and then he rose and fell to getting us our dinner, seeming to be as easy and as well in health as at any other time.

I am well assured that the Indians wash their infants in cold water as soon as born, in all seasons of the year."

[From the Mississippian.]

Surgery and Mesmerism.

An interesting surgical operation was performed in our city on the 2nd inst., by Dr. W. R. Gist, assisted by Dr. W. S. Langley, of which the following description has been handed us by one of the witnesses. The patient was the lady of Mr. James E. Mathews, Auditor of Public Accounts.

On the 25th June, Dr. Gist visited and mesmerized Mrs. M. for the first time, with the view of removing a cancerous tumor. He visited her again on the 27th and 29th of the same month, and mesmerized her on both occasions. The tumor was situated just behind the angle of the lower jaw, on the left side of the face, and over the lower half of the parotid gland. It was slightly inflamed, and exceedingly tender, so much so that the slightest touch caused very great pain.

On the 2nd inst., Dr. G., accompanied by Dr. Langley, visited the patient. She did not know that Dr. G. intended to perform the operation on that evening, but suspected it, from the fact of Dr. Langley's being present, and was therefore much agitated. Dr. G., however, succeeded very soon, in placing her most fully under the mesmeric influence. At this time, Col. Mathews called in Chancellor Cocke, Gen. Clarke and lady, and Mr. George Boddie, in whose presence the operation was performed. A portion of skin, one and a half inches in length, and one inch in width, was then removed—a cut was made about half an inch in depth, including the skin and cellular tissue, together with the tumor, taken away. It bled freely, after which the wound was closed with stitches and adhesive straps; the whole operation occupying about twenty minutes. The pulse and respiration were counted by Dr. Langley, both before and after the operation, and it was found that the pulse had not varied a beat in a minute, neither had the respiration changed. Those who watched the countenance, could not detect the slightest change in the features, not even the contraction of a muscle, although the operation was (or would have been under ordinary circumstances) a very painful one.

About half an hour after the operation was over, she was awak-

ened from her mesmeric sleep—her attention called to some irrelevant subject, when she laughed heartily and *naturally*. Her attention was then called to the wound. She was perfectly astonished, and said she knew nothing of it, but, that it then smarted and burnt. She is doing well, and will soon be entirely recovered.

Much praise is due Dr. Gist for the skillful and satisfactory manner in which the operation was performed. We learn that a full report will be made out for the publication in some medical journal.

Blood-Letting.

One of the arguments in favor of blood-letting is, that an individual often becomes fat by being bled frequently and in small quantities. Van Sweiten mentions the case of a woman, who was bled more than sixty times in one year, and who meanwhile became extremely corpulent. It will be seen, however, that in cases such as the above, there is no actual increase of flesh, but a bloated or dropsical condition of the patient, arising from a derangement of function in the absorbent vessels; and it is well known that dropsies of an inveterate character are frequently the result of copious blood-lettings.—*Mattison.*

Professor Lobstein, in his well known work on Blood-letting, says, "Were bleeding and mercury totally prohibited, a great many physicians would find themselves in a sad dilemma—their time easily disposed of. It is astonishing that so many physicians have fallen into this extravagance. Blood, the most precious matter of life, is lavishingly squandered where there is no necessity; yes, often without knowledge, for what purport. * * * * So far from blood-letting being beneficial, it is productive of the most serious and fatal effects. Should I contribute by these remarks, to save more lives in future, and arrest this cruel practice, I shall feel that gratification which arises from the consciousness of having performed a good act. How much it is to be regretted that such an awful scourge to humanity should exist. * * * * During my residence of fourteen years past in this happy country of liberty and independence, I am bound to say that in all my practice of twenty-seven years as a physician, never have I seen in any part of Europe such extravagance of blood-letting, as I have seen in this country. How many thousands of our fellow citizens are sent to an untimely grave! how many families deprived of their amiable children! how many husbands deprived of their lovely wives! how many wives of their husbands, who have fallen victims to bleeding; and the same may be said of mercury. * * * * It is proved by numerous experiments, that the most simple fevers, by bleeding, become nervous or putrid, to many instances of which I can attest."

Without all peradventure, water was the primitive, original be-

verage, and is the only simple fluid, fitted for diluting, moistening, and cooling—the ends of drink appointed by nature. Water alone is sufficient and effectual for all the purposes of human wants and drinks.—*Dr. Cheyne.*

Health.

Health produces a quiet and almost imperceptible flow of pleasure, both mental and animal, the sum total of which is inconceivably great, far exceeding the gratification afforded by riches, or honors, or any thing else whatever, except perhaps an approving conscience. If the wealth of both the Indies were placed in one scale, and health in the other, to prefer the former would be consummate folly. And he is *doubly* a fool who injures his health by excessive labor for a paltry pittance, by careless exposure, or by indulging his appetite. He is wise indeed who understands and obeys the laws of life and health; but he who does not understand them, is the veriest ignoramus, however learned he may be.—*Fowler's Phrenological Journal.*

Bathing.

In many parts of Russia, the people of both sexes bathe frequently in the rivers and cold baths. The women take with them the children, even to the youngest; and as soon as old enough, all are taught to swim. In winter they use the vapor bath of a high temperature, and after exciting the action of the skin by switching with birch twigs, and using brisk friction with coarse towels, they plunge into the snow, in the coldest weather, remaining for a few minutes, and then quickly dress, and take exercise. An Englishman, finding the snow bath so agreeable in these cases, remained too long, and thereby lost his life. Among the peasantry, great longevity is common. Many are to be found of 100 to 120 years of age. As a general thing, there are no medical men in their villages. Rheumatism is comparatively unknown among them, and complaints of any kind are rare. Coarse unbolted rye meal bread is their principal food.—*Wilson.*

A Good Joke.—A well known physician in the town, says an exchange, is very much annoyed by an old lady who is always sure to accost him in the street, for the purpose of telling over her ailment. "Ah! I see you are quite feeble," said the doctor; "shut your eyes and show me your tongue." She obeyed, and the doctor, quietly moving off, left her standing there for some time in this ridiculous position, to the infinite amusement of all who witnessed the funny scene.

Passions, are winds to urge us o'er the wave,
Reason, the rudder to direct or save.

Peirce Academy.

THE Winter Session of 12 weeks, will commence **Monday, Nov. 30,** under the charge of Mr. J. W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M. PARKER, Preceptress. The Prudential Committee are happy to state, that, contrary to their previous custom, arrangements have been made to keep the efficient Preceptress during the Winter, thus affording facilities to those who may wish to attend to Drawing or Painting, as well as to those who would avail themselves of complete apparatus and Daily Lectures, in pursuing the study of Philosophy, Chemistry, or Astronomy, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Books loaned to the Pupils, and Stationary of every kind provided at the most reasonable rates.

TUITION.

Common English Branches, - - - - - - - - - - - -	$4 per 11 weeks.
Higher " " and Languages, - - - - - - -	5 " " "
Drawing or Painting, (55 Lessons,) - - - - - - - - -	1 62 1-2 do do do

Board, including Washing—Gentlemen, $1,75 per week—Ladies, $1,50.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time, but not for a period of less than *Six Weeks.*

Middleborough, Oct. 1, 1846, JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. 6w

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest notice.

Cayenne, Ginger and Pulverized Spices *unadulterated* for domestic purposes.

Also, at his office may be obtained the "Enquirer."

Middleborough, May 15, 1846.

CARPETS of new and elegant patterns, very cheap;

LOOKING GLASSES of all sizes of the latest and best styles;

Shawls, Shoes, Hoisery and Gloves, Bonnets, Caps, Tabs and Flowers. Ribbons, Laces, &c.

ALSO all other kinds of Goods kept in the country which will be sold at the lowest Cash prices. ETHAN EARLE.

Middleborough, November 15, 1846.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, FEBRUARY 15, 1847. NO. 19.

Opium.

No. 2.—By reference to No. 14, our readers will perceive, that, at the close of an article headed "Opium," we promised to give some instances of the effects of that drug. That promise we will now fulfill.

One was that of an individual seized violently with disease. A physician was called, in haste. He prescribed, and left. Soon after he left, the symptoms of the patient assumed such a character, that the friends of the sick man were greatly alarmed.

The physician was again called; and counsel at the same time. The patient was in a heavy stupor—breathing very long—and already was the death rattle in his throat. The first physician left some pills when under the *influence of excitement.*

These pills, the second physician said, *were opium;* and that they were the cause of the patient's death. When will people learn to avoid poisons, whether administered by one who has a parchment, or by one destitute?—And when will people cease to patronize a physician who will throw himself into a *state of excitement* by the use of spirituous liquors—overthrowing for the time, partially or wholly, his mind, *as well as body.* Is life secure in such hands? Are such physicians—armed with the most deadly poisons—worthy of patronage?

Another case, which has come to the knowledge of the writer, is as follows: Patient had been afflicted for a long time with a very severe and excrutiatingly painful disease. Had no sleep for several days. Opium was given in large doses for the purpose of procuring repose.

After a large quantity had been administered, a "deep sleep" fell upon the patient. *This sleep ended in death.*

We quote again, from Prof. Christison. "The symptoms which arise when opium is administered in a dangerous dose, begin with giddiness and stupor, generally without any previous stimulation. The stupor rapidly increasing, the person soon becomes motionless and insensible; he breathes very slowly, generally lies quite still, with the eyes shut and the pupils contracted; and the whole expression of the countenance is that of deep and perfect repose. As the *poisoning* (curious medicine) advances, the features become ghastly, the pulse feeble and imperceptible, the muscles relaxed, and unless assistance is speedily procured, *death ensues!*"

We now ask, if the several preparations of opium are safe? Why use them, when Nature has put into our hands those articles which will soothe, calm, and quiet the aches of the body, *without* these dangerous results ever occurring? Is it not in accordance with reason and a sound judgement, to

use *that* one of two articles which will produce the desired effect only; while the other may--yes—actually does—produce effects most deeply to be mourned? W.

Measles!

This disorder is now quite prevalent in this town (Middleboro'). Many inquiries have been addressed us, as to the proper method of treating the disease.

By reference to No. 8 and No. 10, the method of treatment recommended, as well as the principles upon which the treatment is founded, will be seen.

Avoid poisons, good friends, and "throw physic to the dogs." Adhere strictly to Nature's remedies, and you need not fear the result. One good lady told the writer a few days since, that by following out the treatment there laid down, she had carried her whole family through, without calling any physician. Cheap way of paying a physician. *Only* fifty cents per year! W.

[For the Medical Enquirer.]

Dr. Wood:—From a desire that others may be benefitted, and saved from much severe pain, I am ready to urge such as are afflicted in the manner that I have been, to adopt the simple prescription which was by you advised in my own case. I have heretofore suffered excrutiatingly, and yet never was at first near as badly as the last time. And yet by using the prescription you gave me, I was in 12 hours perfectly restored. Formerly I have had to suffer for weeks together. A Mother.

The prescription alluded to, by "A Mother," was as follows: Poultice, composed of two parts of superfine Slippery Elm, and one part each of Ginger and Green Lobelia, applied warm—the parts having previously been bathed with Elixir. On retiring for the night, the poultice was applied, while copious draughts of hot composition tea were taken internally. The complaint was that of cake, swelled breast, with a prospect of broken breast. W.

[From the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Interesting Incident.

Mr. Editor,—Those of your readers who have a file of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, will find, by examining the number of May 16, 1842, a communication from John Butterfield, M. D. of Lowell, Mass., headed, "*Case of death from Thomsonism.*" The writer, on that occasion, threw off a very caustic article, containing much severe denunciation of the Botanic Practice. The patient, a Mr. Patch, whose death he chronicled, expired, as he stated, "*another victim to base quackery.*"

It will be remembered, by the readers of the Periodical then under my editorial charge, that Dr. Butterfield's article was ably reviewed by friend, Dr. A. R. Porter, of Danvers; and that, to his review, I appended a few remarks, savoring, perhaps, too much of

severity. In those days, I was harassed on all sides, by regulars and irregulars, as well as by "false brethren;" and I wielded, occasionally, a very pointed pen. Were I, at the present time, conducting a similar Journal, I presume I should dispense, to some extent, with cautery and the knife, and use more of the "oil and the wine."

But I perceive, that I am digressing. I took up my men to relate an incident, connected with Dr. Butterfield and "the case of death from Thomsonism," which was amusing to myself, and may be so to your readers.

On my journey from Illinois in May last, I took passage in the Steamer North America, at St. Louis, in company with several hundred passengers, for Cincinnati. As the passage would occupy several days, I endeavoured to form such acquaintances as I could, and to acquire some little knowledge of men and things; and for this purpose, I entered into free and familiar conversation with every one who was disposed to answer the questions of a Yankee. I met with one young man, very intelligent, communicative, and companionable, whom I shortly ascertained to be a physician, acquainted somewhat with that part of the country, through which we were passing, and with whom I had several very pleasant interviews. As we were engaged in the same profession, we entered freely into the discussion of medical subjects, conversing, not only upon the science of medicine in general, but also upon the modes of treatment, best adapted to particular forms of disease.

He unbosomed himself to me, without restraint. Although his senior in years, I assumed the attitude of a learner, and listened to his conversation with much satisfaction. He informed me that he was a graduate of one of the regular schools; that the Allopathic Practice had disappointed his expectations; that he had become disgusted with it; that he had purchased Mattson's work, Thomson's, and several other Botanic works which he had carefully studied, being determined to make no half-way business of it; that he had adopted the Botanic Practice; and that, to his joy, as well as surprise, he found he could cure *fifteen patients with Botanic remedies*, where he could cure but one *with the Alepathic*. I use his own language. But, said he, I did not sail under Botanic colors; I kept my mode of Practice secret, and my patients knew not of the change. Although we were entire strangers to each other, these remarks were particularly gratifying to me, coming from a regular physician; and, when he spoke of particular remedies, I gave a cool assent, and endeavoured to give the conversation such a turn as would draw out his views as fully as possible. "Why," said he, "lobelia is the best emetic ever administered." I replied, that I had used it in some instances, but it was an article which required great caution in its administration. My coolness only served to make him more enthusiastic; and he added, with earnestness, that he had given it, and taken it, and it was the *very best*

emetic in the whole range of the Materia Medica.

Many more remarks of a similar nature were made, but I have not time to relate them. Our last interview was nearly ended.—My friend was to leave the steamer at Portsmouth, Ohio, at which place the boat would arrive at midnight; and, as I was about to retire to my state-room, I told him I should be happy to learn his name, which he promptly gave me, as John Butterfield, formerly of Lowell, Mass. I told him my name was Osgood, formerly of Boston. *Osgood! Osgood!! said he in a hurried tone of voice,—I know something about you, I believe. Did not you edit a Thomsonian paper there?* I replied that I did; and without giving the least intimation, that I knew what was passing in his mind, to relieve him from the embarrassment under which I saw he was laboring, I bid him farewell, and took my leave.

There are times, Mr. Editor, when the expression of the countenance is an unmistakable index of the thoughts that are passing in the mind. The whole truth, in relation to his denunciation of Botanic Practitioners, to the "*Case of death from Thomsonism*," &c. &c., flashed upon the Doctor's mind in a moment. Within the short period of four years, he had published his sentiments in a widely circulated Medical Journal,—had adopted the *very* Practice which he then denounced,—had conceded, that it was infinitely superior to the Practice in which he was educated; and not only so, but had made the humiliating confession to the *very man*, to whom, of all men, knowing the circumstances, he would have been most unwilling to make it.

I confess, that I pitied the man most sincerely; nevertheless, I can assure you, that, on retiring to my state-room, I had a hearty laugh at his expense; and, considering the incident too good to keep, I have communicated it for your columns. The thought has more than once occurred to me, that there might be many more physicians in the Allopathic ranks, following in the footsteps of Dr. Butterfield. At some future day, I design, if time permits, to send you a communication on the subject of cathartics.

Yours truly, JAMES OSGOOD.

Boston, Jan. 26th, 1847.

SALIVATION PRODUCED BY GOLD PLATES.—A sensible paper in the N. Y. Dental Mirror on the salivation that is produced by wearing gold plates for sustaining artificial teeth, is worthy of extensive circulation. That an effect of this kind is induced in some persons, is beyond question, and the state of health has been seriously affected, without the cause being understood or even suspected.—"The salivation produced by gold mountings for artificial teeth, is not mercurial, but is what we call galvanic salivation. This galvanic influence is undoubtedly produced by the action of a vitiated salvia upon the gold plate and solder which compose the mountings. Within our own circle of acquaintance we know of a case where

the salivation has at times been a serious inconvenience, accompanied by nausea, and not unfrequently, active vomition. The individual frequently witnesses vivid flashes of light at the breakfast table, if the steel knife blade or a steel fork happens to strike against the new teeth. Dentists must look carefully into this matter, since it can be obviated very readily, by simply covering the seams of solder with gold, so that the salvia cannot come in contact with the inferior metal."—*Medical and Surgical Journal.*

[From the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Lacteal Metastasis.

Mr. Editor,—The following report of a singular case was lately sent us by Dr. David Herron, of Penfield, Ga.; and, as it is rather a rare case, we have concluded to send it to you for publication in the Journal. "A lady had been troubled with a chronic diarrhœa, for some 4 or 5 months previous to confinement. About the third day after parturition, she was attacked with fever; and, in 24 hours, was prostrated very low, notwithstanding the active means used by Dr. H. to prevent it. No milk was secreted at all in the breasts, but a profuse vicarious discharge of milk from the bowels ensued: and, whenever this discharge was stopped by astringents, milk was thrown up by *emesis*, or expectoration. In taste to the patient, and in consistence, it had all the appearance of milk." The Dr. observes:—"After all hopes of a recovery had been given up, by both the patient and her friends, I gave a lobelia emetic; reaction took place; and, by a repetition of the said emetic, the secretion commenced in the breasts, and the patient recovered her usual health. But, lo! and behold!! the *would-be-wise ones* say, it is not so; and more, they say I am a very presumptuous fellow to try to make the patient and her friends believe such a strange phenomenon"!!!

As Dr. Herron is one of the most skillful, as well as extensive Botanic Practitioners in Georgia, we feel disposed to give credence to these facts; and we find them to be countenanced, not only by good authority, but by sound pathology. Dr. Andral says, page 204, vol. 1st. "Some cases have been recorded, in which the constituents of milk have been discovered in parts where it is not usually obtained," &c. Again he says, on the same page, "The general conclusions which the facts just recorded naturally suggest, are, that the blood contains the elements of all the secretions; and, under certain circumstances, those elements which are contained in the blood may be seperated from it by other outlets than those through which they naturally pass. Again, page 267, vol. 1st.—"These morbid secretions may be developed in any part of the body, for the only condition requisite for their formation is the power of secreting, which, as we have already seen, is possessed by every tissue in the body."

We might adduce many cases, by reference to works on Pathology and Physiology where there was a metastasis of a discharge from one organ to another. We have well attested facts of the discharge of urine from the ears, eyes, breasts, &c. Why then doubt the facts as stated by Dr. Herron?

We hope Dr. H. will report many cases for the Journal, for his observation and experience are very extensive.

Macon, Feb., 1847. L. M. Comings.

Sulphuric Ether.

The British and Foreign Medical Review of December 22d, says of the new gas which Drs. Jackson and Morton, of Boston, have introduced into their practice: Yesterday we *(Medical Review)* had ourselves the satisfaction of seeing this new mode of cheating pain put in practice by a master of chirurgery on our own side of the Atlantic. In the theatre of University College Hospital, Mr. Liston amputated the thigh of a man previously narcotized by inhalation of the ether vapour. Shortly after being placed on the operating table, the patient began to inhale, and became apparently insensible in the course of two or three minutes. The operation was then commenced, and the limb was removed in what seemed to us a marvellously short space of time—certainly less than a minute; the patient remaining during the incisions and the tying of the arteries, perfectly still and motionless. While the vessels were being secured, on being spoken to he roused partially up (still showing no signs of pain) and answered questions put to him in a slow drowsy manner. He declared to us that at no part of the operation had he felt pain, though he seemed to be partially conscious; he had heard some words, and felt that something was being done to his limb. He was not aware, till told, that the limb was off, and, when he knew it, expressed great gratification at having been saved from pain. The man seemed quite awake when removed from the operation room, and continued so. Everything has since proceeded as usual, and very favourably. Mr. Liston afterwards performed one of the minor but most painful operations of surgery—the partial removal of the nail in onychia, on a man similarly narcotized, and with precisely the same result. The patient seemed to feel no pain, and, upon rousing up after the operation, declared that he had felt none. It appears that some very robust persons cannot be effectually narcotized by the inhalation of the vapour.

The Benefits of Laughter.—Another resource for family amusement is the various games that are played by children, and in which the joining of the older members of the family is always a great advantage to both parties. All medical men unite in declaring, that nothing is more beneficial to health than hearty laughter; and sure our benevolent Creator would not have provided,

and made it a source of health and enjoyment to use them, and then have made it a sin to do so. The prevailing temper of the mind, should be cheerful, yet serious; but there are times, when relaxation and laughter are proper for all. There is nothing better for this end, than that the parents and older persons should join in the sports of childhood. Mature minds can always make such sports entertaining to children, and can exert a healthful moral influence over their minds; and, at the same time, can gain exercise and amusement for themselves. How lamentable that so many fathers, who could be thus useful and happy with their children, throw away such opportunities, and wear out soul and body in the pursuit of game or fame?

The Air we Breathe.—Nothing is more interesting than those general laws by which God preserves the order of the world. If we had a complete knowledge of all the wonderful contrivances that surround us, we should be filled with admiration and awe; to contemplate those with which we are acquainted, is the highest of intellectual pleasures.

One of these contrivances may be made intelligible even to those who have no acquaintance with natural philosophy.

The air is made up of *two different gases*, or airs mixed together in a particular proportion. Of these, *one, (oxygen,)* which we will call *life air*, is necessary for the support of men and all other animals, which would die without it; neither could anything *burn* without the help of this *life air*. Since, then, a vast quantity of it is consumed every hour, how is the supply kept up? How is it the stock of *life air* is still sufficient for our fires and candles.

Now, besides two gases, there is also present in the atmosphere another gas, called carbonic acid, which is made up of *carbon* and *life air*. The name will be unknown to many, but all are acquainted with the thing; it is what gives spirit to ale, wine, &c., and even to water, which is insipid after boiling, from the loss of its carbonic acid. This carbonic acid is produced by the breathing of animals, and the putrefaction of animal and vegetable substances. Now, this constant supply *must be got rid of*, or it would kill us; *it is got rid of thus*: all vegetables—grass, herbs, trees, &c.—suck in this carbon during the day; nourish themselves with the *carbon*, and give back the *life air* that was combined with it. In the night they do the reverse; but still, taking a whole day, they lessen the quantity of carbonic gas, and furnish the atmosphere with that supply of life air which is necessary to the existence of the animal creation.

Physic and Infancy.—"Ah! poor thing; it's gone at last," said a fond father to a friend, alluding to the death of a baby two months old; "but we did all we could for it, and there's no use repining. It was only ill a week, and during that time we had four

doctors, who gave it eight calomel powders, applied one leach to the chest, six mustard plasters, and gave it antimonial wine, and other medicines in abundance! Yet the poor thing died!" The friend, in amazement, replied, "Died! it would have been a miracle if it had lived."

—PEIRCE ACADEMY,—

—MIDDLEBORO,' MASS.—

WILL commence its Spring Session of 16 weeks, **MONDAY, March 8,** under the charge of Mr. John W. P. JENKS, A, M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M PARKER, Preceptress.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time during the term, but not for a period of less than 8 weeks.

Lectures in all the Physical Sciences, with the aid of *Complete Apparatus.*

Tuition and Board as heretofore. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. f15

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS!

A VALUABLE collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronometer, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarsness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats.

Also, Syringes of all kinds. T. W. WOOD. feb15

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

A good assortment of genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, comprising the various SIMPLES and COMPOUNDS used in the BOTANIC PRACTICE; recently selected and prepared. Persons wishing to obtain any of the above Medicines, are respectfully invited to call. All prescriptions carefully attended to. TERMS CASH.

DR. BANNING'S PATENT LACE, CHAPIN'S
And other SUPPORTERS constantly on hand.

Fall River, May 15, 1846.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,
Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, MARCH 1, 1847. NO. 20.

Murder! Murder!

For the truth of the following statement, we are indebted to one of the old school physicians of this town. The same individual has repeatedly, heretofore, very *kindly*, thrown out rays of light to illuminate the dark minds of the Botanic fraternity. This same individual made a very important discovery last June, in relation to the Reformed practice. Not only did he make the discovery, but like a true hearted philanthropist, who feels for suffering humanity, he boldly promulgated to a frowning world, that "Lobelia was a d——d poison—that it would have a powerful *effect upon the brain.* And, moreover, unless vomited up, *was sure death!!*"—Further, he has taken much pains to enlighten the public upon the qualifications of the Botanic practitioner in this town. We think that for his continuous and strenuous efforts, exhibiting as they do, so much disinterested benevolence, he merits the hearty thanks of *those* SUFFICIENTLY *ignorant*, to need any of *his* assistance, in acquiring information.

But to the statement. A little child in this town was sick. The physician alluded to, was called. In process of time the child was a second time unwell. Some kind friends advised the mother to give it some composition. (Did you *ever?*) The composition was given! *The child was* KILLED *by it!!* The composition was given—*and now the child is in the grave yard!*"

Reader, this is an important discovery. *Composition will kill people!*—Strange, that such a wicked man as Samuel Thomson, was ever permitted to live, and put together such a villainous, *deadly*, compound as this. Ho! every one that has used this composition: it kills! it kills! Let it no more be used. Hereafter use such harmless remedies (?) as arsenic, calomel, corrosive sublimate, sulphuric acid, aquafortis, and the like innocent medicines (?)

We thought it to be our duty to announce this discovery to our readers. We plead guilty to having made and sold this dangerous article. We were entirely unconscious that we were dealing with such injurious articles.

We find, however, that we were not *entirely* alone in our ignorance.—Prof. Mattson, a member of the Mass. Medical Society, the same society that the *learned* gentlemen of *discovery notoriety* is a member of, speaking of this same composition, says, as follows:

"If there is a panacea in the world, *it is this preparation.* It operates in harmony with the laws of the human system, and *may*, therefore, *be safely employed in* EVERY FORM *of disease.*"

Again: we quote from Prof. Worthy, M. D. He says: "These powders (composition) may be given in all cases and stages of diseases to which men, *women* and CHILDREN are subject." How strange that these brilliant

lights in the medical world should be eclipsed by *so* small a star! However, the sun *is* sometimes eclipsed by this *dark*, *opaque*, earth. W.

Observe!

That in our last No. we gave two instances of the fatal effects of opium, in this town, when prescribed by physicians.

This day, a mother gave the writer the following statement of facts.—The incidents alluded to, occurred in a neighboring town, and the child for whom the physician prescribed, was the narrator's son.

Her babe, between two and three months old, seemed to be somewhat unwell. A physician of the old school was applied to, who ordered the "saline mixture," which he prepared. He ordered it to be given in teaspoonful doses. The mother noticed that when the child was under the influence of the article, (medicine we *cannot* call it,) he was sleepy. After some two or three doses had been administered, she noticed slight spasms, shortly after which, perhaps the next day, the child seeming worse, a teaspoonful of the "mixture" was given. Very soon afterwards, the spasms returned, aggravated, to a dangerous degree, even producing a cessation of breathing for several minutes. A second physician, of the same order, was called in. After examination, he declared himself unable to determine the disease. He, however, advised an emetic. This was administered, but without any effect. A purgative was then administered, but with the same result. At length he called for this mixture. Examining it, he exclaimed; "No wonder the emetic would not operate! No wonder the physic would not operate! *The child is full of paregoric!*

All of this time the child was in a very stupid state—his breath stopping at long intervals. They gave up the child, and once he lay so long without breathing, that the physician and friends pronounced him dead! He lay a long time without breathing, perceptibly, or exhibiting any of the symptoms of life!

Does this not develope to the reader a new feature in the poison practice? Here is a child but just saved from death, at the hands of a physician. Is there aught said? No. The death of the child would, if it had occurred, have been ascribed to the dispensations of Divine Providence! Had death occurred from disease, after a Botanic had used those remedies which the God of nature had put into his hands, it would have been sung from one extremity of the country to the other, "the *dear* child was killed by composition;" or perhaps by the dreadful poison, penny royal tea; or some other equally potent engine of destruction, which the ignorant, cruel, wicked, steam doctors so constantly use. Verily, these steam doctors are doing a vast deal of mischief! Why, only think of it. They have the hardihood to order a sick person to take catnip tea and camphor water! Worse than that, even ginger tea is ordered! And sometimes too, they give cayenne "that drys up the blood so frightfully," and burns the skin off the throat and stomach so shockingly! Then too, that *dreadful*, *deadly*, *awful poison*—LOBELIA! *Oh dear!* why they ought to hang by the neck, *at least*, "five minits," every one of them! W.

Fifty Dollars.--A gentleman stated to the writer recently, at the close of a public lecture, in which the evils of opium taking were noticed, that he knew *one* individual in this town who spent more than *fifty dollars per annum* for opium! How many do our readers suppose there are in this town that do likewise? Fifty dollars will not supply *some* in this town. W.

[From the Bangor Mercury.]

Poisons not Medicines.

Mr. Editor,—*Dear Sir:* If it is not asking too much of you, will you please publish the following testimony against using poison as a medicine? Thomas Jefferson said in his day,—"I wish to see a reform in medicine, an abandonment of hypothesis for sober facts." Thousands of our fellow citizens are ready to endorse the same. There are reforms going on in other sciences, why not in medicine? Says Professor Powell, M. D., Professor in the Medical College at Burlington, Vermont,—"It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant, when all deleterious poisons will be struck from our Materia Medica. It is my opinion that calomel or mercury has made more diseases, since it has been so universally exhibited, than all the epidemics of our country. It is more than ten years, since I used or administered a dose of it, although I have been in the daily practice of physic, and am sure that I have been more successful in practice, than when I made use of it."—Says Dr. Robertson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who pursued his studies in England, and subsequently in Philadelphia, under the celebrated Dr. Rush—"It is astonishing, and will remain an astonishment to future ages, that the very rankest poisons are the greatest remedies now in use in the world, and have been for the last fifty years. It would be a melancholy tale, could it be told, of the millions who have perished by this practice." Says Dr. Hersey, who was a practitioner of the old school forty years, and a surgeon in our last war,—"What deplorable and incurable diseases have been brought on by the extravagant use of mercury! Is it not dangerous to administer a medicine to cure a disease that will so frequently produce another of a more terrible and afflictive form?" Says Dr. J. J. Steel, of New York,—"The bad effect of calomel upon the human system, is not sufficiently known or admitted. It exerts the most powerful influence upon the liver, and other glands. It is one of the most fruitful causes of liver complaint, consumption, king's evil, dropsy, dyspepsia, that exists at the present day. It is the champion of modern physicians in the cure of all diseases. I know the effects of calomel upon the human system, for I have tried it in every shape, and for almost every disease. I have found it uniformly attended with risk; and. if pushed to a salivation, absolute consequences of a dangerous character, either open, or hidden, were produced. This fact is no secret to the physician who uses it." Professor Barton, of the Medical College of Louisiana,

says of tomato,—"I feelingly wish it success, after having witnessed for sixteen years the horrible ravages committed by calomel." Says Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, of Harvard University, after retiring from practice,—"I am sick of learned quackery." Says Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia,—"Dissections daily convince us of our ignorance of the seat of disease. What mischief have we not done, under false facts, and false theories? We have assisted in multiplying diseases. We have done more; we have increased their mortality." I can bring forward the testimony of hundreds of the medical Faculty to prove that the practice of medicine, as taught in the schools of physic at the present day, is neither common sense nor sound philosophy; and every day's experience teaches me, that there should be a reform in the science of medicine.—The good of the community, the safety of our lives, demands it; and I, for one, feel it my duty to broach the subject, and ask for an improvement in this important science. I simply ask of the old-school physicians, why they use the most deadly drugs in trying to arrest the progress of disease, when they know the deleterious effects they have upon the constitution. How often has their medicine deceived them! I will tell them the reason. They have no infallible index to go by in giving poison to cure the sick. Hence the bills of mortality are increasing upon the community year after year. Something should be done to remedy this evil. The people call for it. We that have families and friends have none to spare to be sacrificed to learned nor ignorant quackery. I will not trouble you farther at this time, but I have more evidence left.—When called for, it shall be forthcoming. Yours, &c.

Hampden, Dec. 10 1846. BENJAMIN L. POMROY.

Ancient Baths.

Modern nations have borrowed from the ancient Romans almost every thing worth borrowing, except their magnificent baths. Such a thing as a public bath, erected at the public expense, and free to all without a charge, or for only a mere pittance, is quite unknown in these modern times. We do much to cure disease when contracted; we erect large hospitals and infirmaries; but in all that pertains to the prevention of disease, we are singularly deficient.—The Romans thought it as important to have a public bath as a public market, or a temple. Even the little provincial Roman towns had their public baths. Bathing and gymnastic exercises were regarded by the ancients as necessary for the preservation of health; and although more importance was attached to them by the Greeks and Romans than by the moderns, we do not know that they have lost any of their importance. Rome, for more than five hundred years, had fewer physicians than baths,—and it cannot be doubted that their constant bathing and gymnastics contributed not a little by rendering medical skill less necessary, to that degraded state of the medical profession which is known to have existed at Rome.

Their gymnasia were dedicated to Apollo, the god of physicians, and the directors of those establishments, as well as the persons employed under them, the bathers, and even slaves, were physicians. Though we read nothing of Homœopathy among them, yet *Hydropathy* was certainly in all its glory at Rome, and among the Greeks. With them, exercise and water cured almost every disease. Musa, the physician of Augustus, was the great champion of Hydropathy among the Romans; and the success of his practice on his illustrious patient was so complete, that Hydropathy became exceedingly fashionable at Rome; but like our modern Hydropathists, he seems to have made some sad mistakes; for we read in Pliny, that he was accused of having caused the death of Marcellus, by his cold water practice. Much quackery prevailed at Rome, although it does not appear to have prevailed as at the present day.

The public baths of the ancients were of vast extent, consisting of a great number of apartments. Such vestiges of these stupendous edifices as have escaped the ravages of time, serve to indicate the amazing magnificence of the age in which they were erected, and of the vast wealth and great refinement of the Roman people. It was not until the age of Augustus, that these vast structures for the health and comfort of the Roman people, became distinguished for their grandeur and magnificence. Their pavements were mosaic —the ceilings vaulted, and richly gilt and painted—and the walls were encrusted with the rarest marbles. They were ornamented with the finest specimens of Greek sculpture; and uniting the beautiful with the useful and necessary, they served to adorn the Roman cities, while they added to the health and comfort of the Roman people. The best idea, perhaps, of the grandeur and beauty of these prodigious works of Roman magnificence, may be derived from the fact that the Pantheon, still existing at Rome, served originally as a vestibule to a portion of the public baths. It was ranked, by Pliny, among the wonders of the world. Agrippa, the son-in-law of Augustus, considering it too magnificent for a vestibule to the baths, is said to have added to its portico, thus converting it into a temple, which he dedicated to all the gods.

The Roman baths were of two kinds, the balneæ and the thermæ. The former consisted of simply cold and warm baths; the latter combined all the appurtenances of the Greek gymnasium, with baths warm and cold. They possessed all the conveniences of gymnastic exercises and sports, together with exedræ fitted up with seats for philosophers, who usually made it a resort for conversation. These exedræ were also the place in which the rhetorician declaimed, the poets recited, and the philosophers lectured. The walls of these literary resorts were decorated with the finest paintings and statues, and out of them there were passages leading to the shaded walks and gardens, adorned with beautiful fountains, like the groves of the Academy.

These baths were two stories high; and the external range of

buildings occupied one mile in circuit. A more minute description of them here would occupy too much space: we can only refer the reader to works on Roman antiquities.—*Poughkeepsie Thomsonian.*

[Extract of a letter to the Thomsonian.]

Curative Power of Lobelia.

Every day's observation affords new and convincing facts in support of the truth of Thomsonian. Within the last 48 hours, I have witnessed the most marked benefit in two severe cases of disease, by placing the patients under the influence of Lobelia. One was a case of croup, in a child 8 months old; the other was a female, suffering very greatly on the third day after confinement. In the case of the child, half a teaspoonful of green Lobelia was administered, by injection, in warm water, and retained in the bowels, and some Lobelia tea, also by the mouth. The attack of croup was severe, but the symptoms began to be more formidable as soon as the child sickened. It vomited two or three times from the first injection, and as some symptoms of croup still continued, three more injections were administered, at intervals of half an hour. These injections were composed of composition tea, adding to each injection from a quarter to half a teaspoonful of green Lobelia powder, and occasionally a teaspoonful of composition tea was given. The child became distressed in the stomach and bowels, sobbed, wrestled aloud, moaned, and was well related,—but all symptoms of croup vanished. After remaining in this restless condition two hours or more, it fell asleep, and after sleeping sweetly four hours, awoke quite well.

But I have not spoken of the other case above alluded to. This lady was suffering with afterpains, extremely annoying, they having prevented her from sleeping three days and nights; there was much tenderness in the lower part of the abdomen, pain in the head and back, and the breasts hard, painful, and tender. She had taken freely of spice bitter tea, but this proved of no apparent benefit. I told the nurse to administer an injection oomposed of half a pint of composition tea, adding a teaspoonful of green Lobelia powder and a teaspoonful of No. 6; and to give her freely of cayenne tea, and keep warm applications to the feet and abodmen. The injection was administered, and brown Lobelia used instead of green,—and the injection was retained, which soon occasioned the patient to feel her condition very sensibly. She became extremely sick, restless, cold at the extremities and surface, and very much relaxed. When she first began to vomit, it occasioned a good deal of pain in the region of the uterns,—but she had not continued in this condition more than two hours, before all the soreness and pain in the abdomen was gone. Her breasts ceased to be painful, and were no longer tender. The pain in her back, which before had been very bad, was removed. And when this intense re-action had ceased,

the patient was apparently clear of disease or ailment. She slept for the first time since her confinement, and the next day was as bright as one in perfect health—clear of pain or any kind of unpleasant sensation. J. M. COMFORT.

[From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.]

Last October, George Gardner, a lad about fourteen years old, living with William Winning, Esq., of South Champion, Jefferson Co., N. Y., vomited up an *evet*, or lizard, five inches in length.—He had not complained much during the season, except occasionally of his stomach, and a remarkable appetite. The day on which this occurred, soon after eating dinner, he complained of being sick at the stomach; and those who were at work with him, laughed at the boy, and said, no wonder—it was because he had eaten so much. In a short time he felt a something working in his throat; still sick, and directly vomited freely, and threw up a *lizard, five inches long*, kicking and flouncing and making efforts to bite the stick with which it was killed. The boy made no further complaint after this.

Mr. Samuel Stebins, of Rutland, Jefferson Co., N. Y., was quite out of health for a year or two, yet able to be about the most of the time, I believe. His ill-health was said to be occasioned by over-doing, having been a very hard laboring man, and frequently at work in the night, and had been known to lay down and drink out of almost any water-hole, by night or day. At length, old Dr. Johnson, of Champion, (now deceased,) gave Mr. Stebins some powerful medicine (I am not able to say what it was) and there passed his bowels *sixteen frogs*, and more that were not yet perfect. Some of the frogs were dead and some were alive. Soon after this, Mr. Stebins became deranged, and has been insane to this day. He has not pined away, but grew very large, and is a sight to behold. He is now living with his father, John Stebins, caged up in a room, but a few miles from here. The circumstance of his discharging the frogs, took place some years since. I am personally acquainted with Mr. Stebins's family, also Esq. Wining's, and all their neighbors, and scores of witnesses, men of truth and veracity, who will testify any day to the truth of the above. L. STANTON.

STRAW SEWERS.

20 STRAW SEWERS wanted. Apply at J. Godfrey's Bonnet Manufactory, No. 7, Exchange Building, North Main street, Fall River. March 1

ALMY & MILNE,

PLAIN AND FANCY JOB PRINTERS.

No. 5, Bedford Street, Fall River,

Respectfully inform the citizens of Middleborough, that they have a large assortment of fashionable Type, Borders, &c., for Printing

PAMPHLETS,	**RECEIPTS,**	**CARDS,**
HANDBILLS,	**BLANKS,**	**CIRCULARS,**
SHOP BILLS,	**CHECKS,**	**LABELS,**

And every other article in the line of PRINTING, either for Mercantile or ordinary business purposes.

Orders left with Dr. T. W. WOOD, Middleboro', will meet with prompt attention.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

THE Subscriber, having secured the services of a person well acquainted with the preparation and sale of Medicines used in the Botanic Practice, is now much better prepared to supply the increasing demand for genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, both simple and compound.

Composition Powders, Vegetable Bitters, Cough Balsam, Pulmonary Syrup, Alterative Syrup, (excellent for humors and Liver Complaint,) Plasters, Liniments, Pills, Cayenne, pure Ginger, Nervine, and all the medicines usually employed in the Botanic Practice, constantly on hand. Mesmeric and other prescriptions carefully attended to by an experienced person. J. M. ALDRICH, Botanic Physician.

Fall River, Mass., March 1, 1847.

COMPOUND SARSAPARILLA, or ALTERATIVE SYRUP.

THIS medicine is most excellent for humors, for Salt Rheum in its various forms; for weakened digestive organs, as well as for Spring complaints. Prepared *wholly* from vegetables, and for sale at the Botanico-Medical Office.

Middleborough, March 1, 1847.

—PEIRCE ACADEMY,—

—MIDDLEBORO,' MASS.—

WILL commence its Spring Session of 16 weeks, **MONDAY, March 8,** under the charge of Mr. John W. P. JENKS, A. M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M PARKER, Preceptress.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time during the term, but not for a period of less than 8 weeks.

Lectures in all the Physical Sciences, with the aid of *Complete Apparatus.*

Tuition and Board as heretofore. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. f15

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS!

A VALUABLE collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronometer, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarsness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats.

Also, Syringes of all kinds. T. W. WOOD. feb15

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, MARCH 15, 1847. NO. 21.

Thomsonism.

Now that exertions are being made to form a more perfect union among the Botanics of New England, and to enlist them in the support of a Botanic College, where a correct system of medical practice may be taught, the question with many arises, how much importance shall be given to the teachings of Dr. Thomson?

Those who are his followers, according to the letter, instead of the spirit of his teaching, are fearful, that by establishing a College, we shall deviate from what they regard as sound doctrine; while others, who possess but little regard for the author of medical reform in this country, are desirous that we should go to the other extreme, and under a plea of freedom from bigotry, make a kind of patch work of good and evil from all systems, which will, after all, afford nothing solid of our own. Now we believe that the true course of the medical reformer lies between these two extremes: rejecting the exclusiveness of the one, and the folly of the other, yet strictly adhering to those fundamental principles which directed Thomson in his practice, and which must guide every one who would be most successful in removing disease. We believe that all true medical practice must rest upon the following fundamental basis, viz: that there is in the human system a vital power, the free operation of which, throughout the system, constitutes health; the obstruction to this free influence is the cause of disease, and that this vital power in its efforts to remove the obstruction, often requires the assistance of external agents.

The business of the physician is to supply the agents necessary to enable the vital power to remove the obstruction. It is highly important that these agents or remedies should act in harmony with this vital power, and by no means oppose it, or "confusion still worse confounded," would be produced, which we witness when poisons are administered. Poisons are those articles which act in opposition to, and in violation of, this living power, and consequently cannot be properly used in assisting its operations.

These principles appear to lie at the basis of Dr. Thomson's system of practice. If he ignorantly violated them in his practice, they still remain the same, and whenever they, and an efficient system of practice based upon them are taught, there should every true medical reformer, and every friend of his race be found, lending his influence and support. Every community will have and should have its local remedies gathered from its own fields and forests; but the object for which they are administered, the laws of their operation, and the best means of arriving at the end desired, are subjects which the physician should understand; and hence the importance of medical institutions, conducted by men of talent, learning, and experi-

ence, for the more speedy and correct acquirement of such knowledge.—While then, we strenuously resist the intrusion of a practice, that mixes poisons with medicines, that regards with complacency the confounding evil with good, let us not be too tenacious about matters of minor importance, so long as it will hinder, in the least, the consummation of our wishes—the universal acceptance of a correct system of medical practice. A.

Report of Cases.

Hœmpotisis.—If any further evidence is required, to show the real quackery of the Allopaths, the treatment pursued by the majority, in cases of bleeding from the lungs, ought to satisfy any one who is the least skeptical of their science and skill.

Is a young man, already weakened and wasted with disease, taken with bleeding from the lungs, the plan of cure is to bleed from the arm, and give opium. Such was the recommendation of an eminent physician, a few miles from this place, a short time since. What a scientific method to equalize the circulation, relieve the internal congestion, and give that *energy* to the circulation which is so indispensable in the cure of this disease.—However much those opposed may deride the Botanic treatment in such cases, we know that reason is on our side, and what is still better, we know that it accomplishes the desired purpose, which cannot be said of the allopathic practice. Even when consumption is seated beyond the reach of remedies, our treatment will check the bleeding and give a short respite to the victim.

Mrs. E—— expectorated from one to two gills of blood about 9 o'clock, A. M. In the night succeeding, and the next morning, she raised at each time more than in the morning previous. We were called to attend her on the evening of the second day. We found the extremites cold, a sense of fullness about the chest, a hacking cough, pulse quick and irregular, and the bowels very costive.

We directed a foot bath, adding cayenne, and prepared a tea of nervine, beth root and cayenne, to be taken freely. This, however, did not prevent the loss of blood in the night. The next day we gave a course of medicine, not forgetting the enema, and a thorough application of the vapor bath. This produced a happy effect, there was no more bleeding, all unpleasant symptoms soon subsided, and by the use of gentle astringent tonics, nervines, mucilages, &c., she was in a few days restored to the enjoyment of usual health.

Pleurisy.—S. E. aged 65, had been subject to rheumatism. He was taken about noon, with chills and a severe pain in his left side, which was soon accompanied with a difficulty of respiration, and a distressing cough.

Supposing it to be rheumatism, (though much more severe than ever before,) he applied some common remedies, but finding himself much worse the next morning, we were called to attend him. The pulse was 120, and all the above symptoms increased. Gave him sudorific, and gently relaxing medicines, ordered him to be washed in cool saleratus water, gave a relax-

ing enema, and then a thorough emetic, which afforded much relief for a few hours, when thorough vomiting was again induced by administering an enema. Sudorifics, nervines and mucilages were plentifully given and lobelia enough to cause copious vomiting daily. Cold water was drank freely, and bitter herbs applied to the side. Relaxing enemas were administered every 3 or 4 hours, affording him the most signal relief.

When vomiting was induced in the evening, it was always succeeded by quiet sleep.

By persevering in this course a few days, the inflammation was subdued, expectoration became free and easy, and the patient soon recovered his health and strength, escaping all those subsequent diseases, so often induced by repeated bleeding and the free use of acrid and narcotic poisons, which are generally resorted to by the allopaths in such cases.

R. A., aged about 35, possessed a slender constitution, and for 2 years previous to being under botanic treatment, had taken quite freely of blue pills, and other equally sanative poisons, until at last, the President of the R. I. Medical Society informed him, that he had the consumption, and nothing more could be done, with an expectation of cure, unless it was to use salt and brandy. He now thought himself a fit subject for a botanic, and accordingly placed himself under our care, to be steamed to death and burnt up with cayenne, according to the prophecy of his friends. We gave him several courses of medicine, making a free use of enemas and the vapor bath, and between the courses gave laxtive bitters, mucilages and nervines. By pursuing this course a few weeks, the disease was removed, and he soon regained his strength, and resumed his occupation, happy in being delivered from disease, blue pills, morphine and other poisons. Some of the family, however, even after he was regularly pursuing his labor, could not think him any better, all his strength and health being merely fictitious, denoting a speedy death. But these latter prophecies have proved as false as the former, and to what cause their failure is attributable, must, I think, to them be quite a mystery, for the botanic practice in their enlightened view, was only calculated to hasten his death, and of course could not have benefitted him. A.

Alcohol.

Notwithstanding so much has been said on the subject of Temperance, so many unanswerable arguments, and such a sad and innumerable array of facts have been adduced to prove the injurious effects of alcohol upon the human system, still we find those (and they are a numerous class) who regard it in some of its forms, as almost the one thing needful in the healing art. Is a person nervous, a little gin or wine is recommended ; is there debility, ale or porter must be freely used for weeks, and many are such confirmed invalids, that some such *medicine* is found to be always necessary, and very *poor health* enjoyed even with its constant use.

We know strong Botanics even, who are not inclined to look upon alcohol as a poison, but regard the fictitious strength which it gives, and the momentary relief sometimes afforded, as being really so much added to vi-

tality, instead of reducing the vital power in proportion to its exhilirating effect.

Now this is all wrong, and those who are depending upon such compounds for their restoration to, and the enjoyment of health, are trusting to a monster that has destroyed as great moral worth, as bright an intellect, and as vigorous a constitution as any possess who are now playing with his fangs, and regarding the poison that issues from them, as possessing a healing balm for their diseases. A.

Botanico-Medical College.

Efforts have been made by the friends of the reformed practice through the State to establish a Botanico-Medical College at Worcester. They have succeeded in their efforts partially. By becoming a branch of the Southern Botanico-Medical College in Georgia, they have the power of granting under certain restrictions Diplomae to their students.

But the intention was to have a charter from our own Legislature, and be in name and fact, "New England."

Our Legislature has done in the premises what we have from the first supposed they would do—rejected the petitioners' prayer and refused to grant the charter.

We recollect very distinctly, often times hearing when presenting the petition for signature, the question asked, "what good will it do?" "will it not be granted without any doubt?" When told that according to what had been done in other states, in such cases, the petition would not be granted, the writer was usually met by strong assurances that he was in an error of opinion.

The fact is, the old school physicians through their medical societies and other organizations in the State are determined not to lose their birth-right —determined to have all colleges for medical instruction in the State under their especial control. This has been done in other states, and persevered in until the people have arisen in their might and spoken in thunder tones not to be misunderstood or disobeyed. Such will be the case in this state. The people must open their eyes and see, and not only see, but destroy this conspiracy against their rights as well as lives.

What are the facts in this matter. Let a practitioner commence business. No matter where, if he is of the reformed practice, his character will be spoiled—his motives be impunged—all kinds of falsehoods respecting him be circulated—yes—worse—even his family and relatives cannot escape the most malignant, cruel scandal. Should he be so unfortunate as to lose a patient once in two years, the community must be tortured nto convulsions at such an atrocious act.

Again: let our Legislature be asked for a charter to incorporate a Botanico-Medical College, backed up with a petition from hundreds of the bone and sinew of the Commonwealth, and the same spirit is manifested, though in a different manner. The petition must be referred to a committee, who shall report that the petitioners have leave to withdraw. The

report must be adopted immediately, and all discussion cut off, and thus the matter be quieted—hushed up—the people cheated out of their rights

And why is all this? We are glad the petition was presented although rejected. The old school physicians had influence enough to defeat a measure calculated to enlighten the people, and this, too, in the old Bay State, that has done so nobly in the cause of education. If we can show the cloven-footed power that is ruling this community with such despotic sway, that power will at once become weakness. By this act the cloven foot has been shown They have shown what they would do, if they had the power. They have done enough to insure the safety of the reformed practice in this State. We shall see next winter a Botanico-Medical college granted by a large majority, and the old medical society, shorn of its strength, humbled for its presumption and arrogance. W.

Quackery.

Any other means than the diffusion of knowledge to suppress quackery, is absurd in its nature, and will be inefficient in its end. The encouragement given to it, arises out of a principle of human nature, that will neither be eradicated by a coercion bull, nor shamed out by ridicule.

Destroy the mystery and mysticism of physic; and quackery will die a natural death. J. BLABURNIE, M. D.

Water.

The faulty administration of water—neglect of the laws of its operation —a groundless timidity of its due application to the living organism, or a love of sophisticated Art instead of simple Nature—one or all of these causes have almost driven it from the pale of orthodox practice, and equally limited its general usage in society. IBID.

Botanico-Medical College of Ohio.

This Institution has just passed through its winter course. We are gratified to perceive its flourishing situation. Over sixty students left the College to commence practice. Massachusetts is too much doctor-ridden to grant a charter for a similar Institution in the State. W.

Death of Dr. Hitchcock.

The gentleman whose name stands at the head of this article, came to this town (Middleboro,') as a practitioner nearly four years since. On the last Tuesday in February, he left home for Boston, in the morning train of cars. While the train was stopping at Randolph, the melancholy accident happened which resulted in his death.

Dr. Hitchcock was universally respected as a man of kind feelings—strong sympathies, and consistent christian principle. He came to this town solitary and alone. Probably not more than one or two persons in town that he had ever seen. He will, however, be long remembered by a a large circle of acquaintances, and his death be much lamented by the whole community. W.

Bald Heads.

In New England assemblies where gentlemen sit with hats off, we see a considerable portion of bald heads,—a larger portion, it is said, than in the South. On one important *cause* of baldness, the Boston Medical Journal has an article from which we give the following extract:—

"A refined civilization has brought with it a train of physical evils, which it is the province of science to control or subdue.—Our tight hats, our warm rooms, closely fitting caps, silk night-caps, from which the perspirable matter cannot escape, by their combined agency, in connection with other influences not always easy to define, bring off the hair prematurely, and turn it grey sooner than personal vanity is willing to exhibit such evidences of decay. And this is not all; the skin is actually in a low state of disease. The effects of which are recognized in the accumulation of dandruff, desquamation of the epidermis. The bulbs of the hairs are inflamed, also from the same cause, and from year to year the hair degenerates, and becomes thinner, not unfrequently ending in baldness. On all that part of the head not covered, viz., the back side, between the ears, and on the temples, the hair general remains to extreme old age, however much the vertex may be denuded.

If females wore equally tight coverings, they would probably suffer very much in the same manner; but their light airy bonnets admit of ventilation, and hence a bald-headed woman would be a phenomenon. Who ever saw a bald Indian? We have had an opportunity of seeing various tribes, in all the forms of untrained savage life—but a spare head of hair was never noticed. Atmospheric exposure conduces to the luxuriance of the hair and a healthful condition of the scalp.

There is another cause of the falling off, or rather breaking off, of the hair in combing and brushing, not the effects of disease at the root, but the destructive burrowing of a microscopic insect—a living invisible moth, eating its way from one stalk to another, like the Hessian fly in a field of wheat."

It is hardly necessary to say that children and youth of both sexes, require much exercise in the open air, for the healthful and symmetrical development of their bodies and for the establishment of vigorous constitutions. Children, as we have seen, are instinctively inclined to action; even before they can stand or sit alone, they love to keep their little hands almost continually in motion, while they are awake; and as soon as they are able to run alone, they delight to be constantly in action:—and when they are old enough to be abroad in the open air, they find their greatest enjoyment in those amusements and sports which are of the most active kind. Action is, therefore, as instinctively natural to children as breathing, and it is unnatural and improper to restrain them from

it, and to keep them in a state of confinement or inaction, for any considerable time. Their little bodies become painfully weary, if they are compelled to remain in one position for half an hour at a time, and it is cruel to repress their instinctive desire for action, beyond what is necessary for their proper discipline. Girls should be allowed as much freedom of action in childhood, as boys, and they should be encouraged to exercise freely in the open air, while their bodies are growing. Not only their own individual welfare requires this, but the good of the race demands it.

[From the Poughkeepsie Thomsonian.]

ADDISON, Vt., Jan. 11, 1847.

The man who, resolutely divesting himself of the habits and prejudices of the false impressions imbibed in early childhood, resolves to know truth, if haply she may be found, is sure to be assailed, threatened, mimicked, and insulted,—with abuse the most pitiful, with derision the most paltry, stupid and futile. Honesty is derided as presumption,—his avowal of naked truth as sedition,—his exposure of existing abuse as demoralizing. It is diligently whispered to timidity, ignorance and bigotry. Take heed, beware of that man, he fears neither God nor devil. But enough of this. I will only add,—the cholera morbus has prevailed here to considerable extent this season. I was called to visit a man, Oct. 7th, ten o'clock at night, about 5 miles from home.—When I arrived at the house, I found him on the floor, with pulse scarcely discernible, vomiting and purging about once in ten minutes. I ordered hot bricks to the feet, gave half a teaspoonful of cayenne in hot water, in ten minutes gave one teaspoonful of brown emetic, and followed with broken doses of composition and slippery elm. In a short time he came to himself,—and said a short time ago, I would not have given three cents for my chance to get well. I have treated other cases in the same way with the same happy results.

WILMARTH HINDES.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

THE Subscriber, having secured the services of a person well acquainted with the preparation and sale of Medicines used in the Botanic Practice, is now much better prepared to supply the increasing demand for genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, both simple and compound.

Composition Powders, Vegetable Bitters, Cough Balsam, Pulmonary Syrup, Alterative Syrup, (excellent for humors and Liver Complaint,) Plasters, Liniments, Pills, Cayenne, pure Ginger, Nervine, and all the medicines usually employed in the Botanic Practice, constantly on hand. Mesmeric and other prescriptions carefully attended to by an experienced person. J. M. ALDRICH, Botanic Physician.

Fall River, Mass., March 1, 1847.

COMPOUND SARSAPARILLA, or ALTERATIVE SYRUP.

THIS medicine is most excellent for humors, for Salt Rheum in its various forms; for weakened digestive organs, as well as for Spring complaints. Prepared *wholly* from vegetables, and for sale at the Botanico-Medical Office.

Middleborough, March 1, 1847.

STRAW SEWERS.

20 STRAW SEWERS wanted. Apply at J. Godfrey's Bonnet Manufactory, No. 7, Exchange Building, North Main street, Fall River. March 1

ALMY & MILNE,

PLAIN AND FANCY JOB PRINTERS.

No. 5, Bedford Street, Fall River,

Respectfully inform the citizens of Middleborough, that they have a large assortment of fashionable Type, Borders, &c., for Printing

PAMPHLETS,	**RECEIPTS,**	**CARDS,**
HANDBILLS,	**BLANKS,**	**CIRCULARS,**
SHOP BILLS,	**CHECKS,**	**LABELS,**

And every other article in the line of PRINTING, either for Mercantile or ordinary business purposes.

Orders left with Dr. T. W. Wood, Middleboro', will meet with prompt attention.

—PEIRCE ACADEMY,—

—MIDDLEBORO,' MASS.—

WILL commence its Spring Session of 16 weeks, **MONDAY, March 8,** under the charge of Mr. John W. P. Jenks, A. M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M Parker, Preceptress.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time during the term, but not for a period of less than 8 weeks.

Lectures in all the Physical Sciences, with the aid of *Complete Apparatus.*

Tuition and Board as heretofore. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. f15

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS!

A VALUABLE collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronometer, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarsness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats.

Also, Syringes of all kinds. T. W. WOOD. feb15

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

T. W. WOOD, A. M.

BOTANIC PHYSICIAN,

OFFICE OVER EATON & LEONARD, NEXT NORTH OF LANE'S HOTEL

☞**Residence, last house on Jackson street.**☜

Medical advice at all hours, day or night. All articles in the "*Materia Medica,*" constantly on hand, or procured at the shortest noticc.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, APRIL 1, 1847. NO. 22.

Homœopathy.

In looking through "Jahr's Pharmacopœia," we were somewhat interested and amused in learning the medicines composing the Materia Medica of homœopathy. We know some persons who were formerly opposed to poisons, but who now think that homœopathy and cold water are much preferable to the reformed practice, which rejects poisons, and makes a judicious application of water, but without regarding it as a hobby to be ridden to death and disgraced in its fall. We know others who prefer the homœopaths because their dose is small, pleasantly prepared, and of course there can be nothing filthy about the medicine. In order that such persons may see the propriety of their course, we copy a few of the articles used. We found the various preparations of mercury, antimony, opium, tobacco, nux vomica, &c.; and among the delicate articles used, there were spiders, the viper, the matter that gives the peculiar odour to the skunk, the wood louse, crab, red ant, grey lizard, common toad, &c. Who will doubt their knowledge of medicine after reading such a catalogue. A glance at their remedies, give us sufficient evidence that the system is a chip from the old block of quackery, mysticism and poison, though comparatively harmless, because of the small quantity given at one time. A.

Improving.

Professor Ware, of Harvard College, declared in 1843 that the course pursued by physicians in the treatment of fever twenty years ago, was more injurious than beneficial. But as the treatment now is the same in kind (being different only in the quantity of poison administered) that it was twenty years since, it affords us evidence to believe, that, if the quantity of medicine was still more reduced, the result would be yet more favorable; thus proving the truth of Dr. Forbes' statement quoted in a former number, that in a large proportion of disease, patients would do better without any interference on the part of the physician, armed as he is, with weapons most fatal to human life. Talk with a patron of the Allopaths, about the use of mercury, bleeding, &c., and he will reply, that his physician gives but little mercury, scarcely ever bleeds or administers other poisons. But such a physician's practice is so much in opposition to his doctrine, as not to entitle him to our confidence. Does he not hold that these are the weapons upon which to rely in combating disease? does he not tell us that the Botanic practice is inefficient because no poisons are used? yet just in proportion as he pursues this inefficient course, which he wrongly attributes to the reformed practice, are the praises of his patrons bestowed upon him. Is not this tacitly admitting, that the poisons which he uses

are destructive instead of curative in their effects, and that the skill of the physician is best displayed in the unfrequent use of what he is willing to have us believe are his best remedies—that an inefficient, do-nothing practice is far better for the patient than to give poisons ?

Their boasted learning and experience are teaching them, and the voice and conduct of the people are fast obliging them practically to confess that the less they use these destructive agents, the greater is their success in removing disease.

It is undeniably true, that there is much less calomel and other poisons used, and not so much of the living current of life drawn from human hearts now, that there was a few years since. And we believe it is equally true, that in proportion to this rejection of poisons, has the allopath been successful in his practice.

But what does this prove in favor of their science and skill? It only shows that for years the grave yards have been filling with the victims of their ignorance, while the people have all along regarded them as their deliverers from pain, sickness and death. A.

Can the Measles be had Twice by the same Individual?

The measles during the past winter have been quite prevalent in different sections of this town (Middleboro'). They have been attended by several very interesting phenomena.

But *the* phenomenon, which has led to perhaps the most remark, is this: A case where an individual has, without doubt, been affected for the second time. The individual alluded to, had the measles for the first time, when three years old. He is now upwards of forty.

For the purpose of information, it may not be proper to quote authority on the question ! Can the measles be had twice by the same individual ?—Mattson says : " This disease rarely occurs more than once, in the same person." By this remark he would be understood as saying that it *might* occur more than once. Worthy says: " Like the small pox, when genuine, they rarely affect persons but once. A recurrence of the measles has been disputed by some, but a number of examples are recorded by different writers where the measles took place twice."

From these authorities, there can be no doubt but that persons may be affected twice with the measles. W.

Report of Cases.

(Continued)—Mrs. S. was seized in the night with cold shiverings, succeeded by hot flashes. She was also attacked with violent pain in the back, head, breast and limbs. These symptoms continued more and more severely until noon of the next day, when the writer was called.

After examination, the patient was informed, that she was seized with a violent inflammation of the kidneys, causing a total suppression of their secretion—also one breast was badly inflamed and swollen. Her pulse was 132, (if memory serves,) and pain seemed to be affecting nearly her whole system.

Gave immediately a full course—enjoined that she should be kept in a perspiration through the night, and applied stimulating liniment to her back and breast. Internally administered slippery elm tea, and copious draughts of coolwort. This course, before morning, removed the suppression—relieved the pain in a great measure—and reduced the fever partially. Pulse at 100. Ordered steaming hops to be applied through the second day and farther continuation of the other medicines. On the third day, patient apparently entirely relieved, and went very soon about her usual labors. W.

[From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.]

Dialogue on Blood Letting.

BY DR. J. W. COMFORT.

The following dialogue contains the chief objections that are urged against Thomsonism, in relation to blood letting; at least they are such as I have heard most, from the learned and unlearned in medical doctrines. The answers and explanations given are such as I deemed correct. J. W. COMFORT.

Objection.—Thomsonians do not bleed; is it not necessary to bleed sometimes?

Thomsonian.—We do not bleed in any case, and we do not believe it to be necessary.

Obj.—Can you cure pleurisy without it?

Thom.—If *we* cannot cure without bleeding, we are satisfied that we cannot cure at all; and we believe that the patient keeping his blood, affords nature more support and strength to overcome disease, whatever form it may assume.

Obj.—But bleeding relieves pain; and patients often feel great relief from bleeding.

Thom.—Yes, bleeding relieves pain; and it will always relieve pain if carried to a certain extent. You may bleed a man so that he will feel no pain. We steam doctors, however, think that this is not the right way to relieve pain, by prostrating the vital energies by blood letting. We aim to relieve the pain of pleurisy by helping nature to overcome the obstructions in the capillary vessels, and to restore nutrition in the part—then the pain will leave; and the same means that we employ to relieve the pain helps to establish a healthy action throughout the system.

Obj.—When a man has the pleurisy bad, and has a strong, quick pulse and high fever, is it not a sign that he has too much blood?

Thom.—Blood contains the elements that supply the system with power to resist disease and to re-establish health. If you take away blood, you take away in the same ratio the power of life.—Animal heat, an essential agent of life, is constantly produced by the action of nutrition—by the conversion of elements contained in the blood into living tissues; and then again the nerve power,

next in importance to caloric and air, is generated by red corpuscles of blood, passing through the nerve centres or ganglia. In proportion as a patient is deprived of blood, in the same ratio will he lose the power of producing animal heat and nerve power, and in the same ratio that he loses heat and nerve power will the system lose the power of overcoming disease, for it is by vital force alone that disease is overcome under all circumstances and conditions. A case of pleurisy occurring in one whose blood is in an impoverished condition, and in whom the nutritive function is carried on very feebly, will be far more liable to terminate fatally than in one whose system is well supplied with healthy blood, and in whom nutrition is more perfectly performed.

Obj.—If a patient laboring under pleurisy be bled and it relieves him, and he gets well without any return of pain, does it not prove that the bleeding cured him?

Thom.—It is only under the most favorable circumstances that a patient would be relieved except for a short time, by blood letting. In a case where the disease is just about forming a crisis, or where the attack is so slight that it would pass away of itself in a few hours, the loss of a few ounces of blood would relieve the pain, and although there might be no return of the pain, the cure would be more or less retarded by the loss of blood; at least the general health would not be restored as if no blood had been taken. There are many cases of pleurisy where a crisis is formed in the course of a few hours from the first attack of pain, and it is in these cases only that blood letting appears to prove of benefit; just because nature is able to perform the cure in spite of the bleeding. But what are the consequences of this practice, where the circumstances of the case are not so favorable? Pain may be relieved, but it is at the expense of vitality. Many thousands of pleuritic patients have been kept sick, and confined to their beds for weeks in consequence of loss of blood, who would have recovered in half the time, and more perfectly restored, by merely favoring the operations of nature, keeping the patient warm, and giving them simple warm teas. In pleurisy, the condition of the pleura, before the inflammation occurs, is such as demands an afflux of blood to be sent to the part to preserve its vitality. The power that can save its vitality resides only in arterial blood, and this material is sent to the pleura in an increased quantity for a beneficial purpose, and the inflammation is as necessary here as it is in cases of local injuries. It is the protective power in operation—and the only way in which this inflammatory action should be interfered with, is to help it to accomplish its object, which may be effectually done by Thomsonian treatment, especially by the use of the steam bath and regular courses of medicine.

Obj.—When the blood is so black and thick, as it often is in patients who are bled, is it not better to take away a part of this

bad blood; and does not disease often depend upon too much bad blood in the body?

Thom.—When the blood is very dark and thicker than usual, it is because it does not circulate freely; and if a portion of it be taken away it will circulate still slower. Taking away a part of the blood does not make that part that remains any purer, but on the contrary renders it more watery, and less fitted for the purposes of nutrition, calorification and enervation. But place a patient, whose blood is thick and black, in a steam bath at a temperature of 120 degrees, give him freely of pure stimulants, (especially cayenne tea,) throw some cold water on him occasionally to enable him to bear the steaming half an hour, at the highest temperature he can bear, and by the time the bath is ended the appearance of the blood will be materially changed—will be of a more healthy color and more highly animalized. The application of warmth in this way is as congenial to the human system, if judiciously applied, as warm air is to a torpid fly.

Cases of pleurisy have terminated fatally, without the occurrence of pain or inflammation; the vitality of the pleura having been destroyed from want of vital energy in the system—no effort at reaction being made—the patients dying without any manifestation of pain, inflammation or fever. Finally, the chances for a favorable and speedy termination of pleurisy and all other attacks of disease will be greater (other conditions being equal) in proportion as the generation of animal heat and nerve power is more actively carried on in the system—and the source of mental heat and nervous fluid is the blood.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23, 1847.

Treatment of Children at School.

Children under eight years of age should not usually be confined to the school room more than one hour at a time, nor more than four hours in a day.

These hours should afford considerable diversity of employments, so as to enable the child to change his posture frequently, and to be more or less upon his feet; and, also, to change the subject of thought, so that the mind shall not be occupied by one subject too long or intensely.

Intensity should be carefully avoided; it tends directly to disease of the brain, which often, probably, arises from this cause. Precocity is generally the result of a morbid condition of this organ, either functional or organic—the former may generally be cured by timely attention; the latter exhibits itself in epilepsy, insanity, or an imbecility of mind, or proves fatal by the occurrence of inflammation or convulsions. If a child exhibits any symptoms of precocity, it should be taken immediately from books, and be permitted to ramble and play in the open air, or engaged in manual

labor and such amusement as will give rest to the mind, and health and vigor to the body.

The recess at school, for children of eight years and under, should be long, the play active and even noisy, (for the lungs acquire strength by exercise as well as the muscles.) Every child should be required to unite in the sports of play-time.

Fifteen minutes are a short time for recess; half an hour is better, particularly in summer. During recess the school-room should be thrown open in warm weather, and the windows be dropped a little way in cold weather, so as thoroughly to ventilate the apartments. We have hardly learned yet that pure air is equally important to health and life as good nourishment and pure water.—In school regulations, regard is usually had to mental and moral improvement only. We forget that we have bodies, the preservation and training of which are not less necessary to the young than the acquisition of knowledge. Without health we can have but little enjoyment. With it, we can learn all that is necessary with ease, if we are not too hasty. No limit is given to the age in which the vigorous and healthy may acquire useful knowledge.

It is of little use to make great acquirements, if, in doing so, we sow the seeds of disease, which will destroy the happiness and usefulness of life.—*Dr. Woodward.*

Interesting Surgical Case.

A son of Mr. John Bobia of Webster, Maine, aged 5 years, on Monday afternoon last while sliding down hill upon a hand-sled, with some beach nuts in his mouth, accidentally got one into his windpipe. Hoarseness, great difficulty in breathing, and intense suffering, immediately followed. A variety of expedients were resorted to for dislodging the nut; such as administering an emetic, holding him up by his heels, &c. &c.—but to no purpose. Twenty-eight hours were consumed by such trials—Dr. McKeen of Topsham, upon seeing the patient, at once gave it as his opinion that nothing short of an immediate operation could save the little fellow's life, and night though it was, it would be fatal to postpone the operation until day-light. The windpipe was accordingly opened forthwith, to the extent of one inch and a quarter just above the breast brone. The instant the windpipe was opened immediate relief was felt from the impending suffocation, and the lad recovered his consciousness. This showed that the beach nut was situated above the artificial opening in the windpipe. A few minutes respite was now given the patient, he breathing through the artificial opening comfortably.

Repeated efforts were next made to ascertain the exact position of the beach nut, and the causes of its retention. A variety of forceps and other instruments were introduced into the windpipe, through the wound, for the purpose of seizing it—but all these essays were unsuccesful. At length it occurred to the Doctor to

pass a strong thread into the windpipe, through the wound upward into the mouth, by means of a delicate probe. This was with some difficulty accomplished—a small piece of sponge was next tied to the thread which hung out of the mouth—with one finger the Doctor guided this bit of sponge into the opening of the windpipe, at the roots of the tongue, while with the other he drew the thread downward through the wound. The sponge by this movement was made to sweep over the whole extent of the windpipe above the wound; and upon its emerging from the artificial opening, it brought along with it the beach nut. The beach nut was a meatless one, and which, from its withered form, and angular projections, caused it to adhere with the tenacity of a burr until it was finally dislodged by the sponge. The lad, we are glad to hear, is likely to do well.—*Brunswick Journal.*

Lobelia Won't Kill.—One of the most scientific doctors that ever trod the soil of Virginia, was asked by one of his regular patients what he thought of the propriety of using Lobelia in his case.

"Why, it's a rank poison," said the doctor.

"Is it?" said the shoemaker: "how much would it take to kill a man?"

"Why, 20 grains, I suppose."

"Are you sure that is enough? Please say how much you know would do it."

"Well, 30 grains are enough to send any man to the d—l."

"Whew!" said the manufacturer of soles, "I have lately been taking, several times, more than 300 grains! and am better than I have been for some years under your treatment."

The doctor had just been wondering at his late improvement, but after this reply he bolted—and soon sent his last bill.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

THE Subscriber, having secured the services of a person well acquainted with the preparation and sale of Medicines used in the Botanic Practice, is now much better prepared to supply the increasing demand for genuine Vegetable Medicines, both simple and compound.

Composition Powders, Vegetable Bitters, Cough Balsam, Pulmonary Syrup, Alterative Syrup, (excellent for humors and Liver Complaint,) Plasters, Liniments, Pills, Cayenne, pure Ginger, Nervine, and all the medicines usually employed in the Botanic Practice, constantly on hand. Mesmeric and other prescriptions carefully attended to by an experienced person. J. M. ALDRICH, Botanic Physician.

Fall River, Mass., March 1, 1847.

ALMY & MILNE,

PLAIN AND FANCY JOB PRINTERS.

No. 5, Bedford Street, Fall River,

Respectfully inform the citizens of Middleborough, that they have a large assortment of fashionable Type, Borders, &c., for Printing

PAMPHLETS,	**RECEIPTS,**	**CARDS,**
HANDBILLS,	**BLANKS,**	**CIRCULARS,**
SHOP BILLS,	**CHECKS,**	**LABELS,**

And every other article in the line of PRINTING, either for Mercantile or ordinary business purposes.

Orders left with Dr. T. W. Wood, Middleboro', will meet with prompt attention.

The New England Health Insurance Company.

INCORPORATED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF CONN., IN MAY 1846.

Capital, 200,000 Dollars.

THIS Institution is novel in its character, but humane and benevolent in its object, and in all its provisions is calculated to alleviate the wants and distress of all who are entitled to share in its beneficent operations. By the provisions of the charter, those who are insured, are entitled to a benefit of FOUR DOLLARS per week whenever they are incapacitated by accident or disease from pursuing their ordinary occupation. The company will insure males now in good health, between the ages of fifteen and seventy years, for the small premium of FIVE DOLLARS per annum, without the insured being required to give any premium note, or being subject to any assessment or any further expense, except twenty five cents for the expense of forwarding the application to Norwich, and obtaining the policy.

The Institution is conducted on the mutual principle, the insured being entitled to a full share of the surplus earnings of the company.

The capital has been paid in and invested according to the requisitions of the charter, and the company, believing it an Institution that must commend itself to the favorable consideration of every candid person, now respectfully solicit applications for policies. For further particulars enquire of T. W. WOOD.

Middleborough, April 1, 1847.

JONES' ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS!

THESE Rods have now been tested for a number of years in almost every part of the country. It is a remarkable fact that not one building protected by them, has ever been injured by lightning. For further information, apply to

Middleborough, April 1, 1847. T. W. WOOD.

Also—For sale every article in the Botanic *Materia Medica*. Apply as above.

STRAW SEWERS.

20 STRAW SEWERS wanted. Apply at J. Godfrey's Bonnet Manufactory, No. 7, Exchange Building, North Main street, Fall River. March 1

—PEIRCE ACADEMY,—

—MIDDLEBORO,' MASS.—

WILL commence its Spring Session of 16 weeks, **MONDAY, March 8,** under the charge of Mr. John W. P. JENKS, A. M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M PARKER, Preceptress.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time during the term, but not for a period of less than 8 weeks.

Lectures in all the Physical Sciences, with the aid of *Complete Apparatus*.

Tuition and Board as heretofore. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. f15

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS!

A VALUABLE collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronomcter, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarseness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats.

Also, Syringes of all kinds. T. W. WOOD. fcb15

COMPOUND SARSAPARILLA, or ALTERATIVE SYRUP.

THIS medicine is most excellent for humors, for Salt Rheum in its various forms; for weakened digestive organs, as well as for Spring complaints. Prepared *wholly* from vegetables, and for sale at the Botanico-Medical Office.

Middleborough, March 1, 1847.

THE MEDICAL ENQUIRER

Is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, simultaneously at Fall River and Middleborough. Terms, 50 cents per year, payable upon delivery of the first number. All remittances and communications for the Inquirer may be directed to either of the Editors. Almy & Milne, Print. Fall River.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO, APRIL 15, 1847. NO. 23.

Remote Consequences.

There are persons who live so entirely in the present, who are so averse to tracing the remote and ultimate consequences of an act, that it seems almost useless to attempt to persuade them that what they regard as a present good can prove a serious future injury. Particularly is this true with regard to the practice of medicine. Persons intelligent on other subjects, are so entirely ignorant of the laws of life and the condition of the system when diseased, that they imagine whatever brings present relief and prevents the external signs of disease, by destroying the re-active energies of the system, must be a present and a lasting good.

How often do we hear them tell how much relief was obtained from bleeding, when suffering from some acute disease, how quiet they were after taking narcotics, and how the external signs of fever vanished for a time, after a free bleeding and the operation of a brisk purge. And yet, who cannot tell how deceitful were all these appearances, that the hopes with which they inspired the patient and friends were speedily blasted, and the system exhausted by disease and the treatment intended for its removal, yielded up to the destroyer the life it could no longer maintain. Still the physician is praised for the course he pursued, because it afforded temporary relief, and facts and reason failed to convince them that such a course had anything to do with destroying the patient.

Such ignorance, such shortsightedness, such a total disregard of remote consequences, has cost the lives of thousands of our fellow beings, and caused many thousands more to drag out a miserable existence, till death came as a welcome messenger to free them from their suffering.

The one idea, that fever is disease, instead of an effort of the system to remove some serious obstruction to its free operation, has caused more lives to be sacrificed in this country than has been destroyed by alcohol; and in both cases the persons have been deceived by trusting to present feelings and appearances, regardless of future consequences. Alcohol produces fictitious strength and oftentimes a cessation from pain, followed however, by exhaustion and disease. Yet so shortsighted were persons for years, (and many now, even physicians, have not their vision much improved, if we may judge from their partaking and prescribing such quantities of wine, porter, &c.,) that they regarded this fictitious strength as so much added to vitality, and the exhaustion and disease which followed as a natural consequence, was traced to some other cause. So the deaths caused mainly by those agents given by the physician, are generally attributed to other causes, because, forsooth, the treatment lessened the pain and fever forgetting that this was accomplished by destroying the power of the sys-

tem to produce either, instead of removing the cause of the pain and fever, and thereby causing a healthy circulation, by which means alone disease can be properly cured.

But do you believe that all disease may be removed? says one of those ignorant, shortsighted devotees at the shrine of poisons. Certainly not! but we do believe there is a vast difference between aiding the vital power to remove disease, and weakening that vital power by such destructive means as are resorted to by the allopaths. If we can render the system sufficient aid, it overcomes the disease, and the patient is cured, and that too without a long list of chronic ailments which so generally attend a recovery under the allopathic treament, particularly if the disease has been severe, and the treatment accordingly. The *results* of the two modes of treatment is deemed sufficient proof of the propriety of regarding fever as a friend, instead of an enemy, and of aiding the vital power, instead of "kicking it out of doors," (as said an allopath,) "and with the lancet in one hand, and calomel in the other, defy disease and death." But, says the objector, the allopaths use remedies that are not poisonous, such even, as are prescribed by their opposers, the Botanics. True, and was it not for these redeeming traits, their practice would prove still more destructive to human life, thus adding another proof of the fatal tendency of their heroic treatment. But then, what are the facts with regard to their practice. How often do they visit a patient,—particularly if suffering with acute disease—without directly weakening the energies of the system, either by bleeding, blistering, giving antimony, opium, calomel, or some other poison. In 134 forms of disease enumerated by Dr. Eberle, he recommends mercury in 105, bleeding in 107, physic in 87, opium in 83, blisters in 78, antimony in 76, leeching in 71, &c., &c. And then to think of the broken constitutions, the living masses of disease, the pains and aches, the wretchedness and wo, the thousands sent prematurely to their graves, by such "horrible, unwarrantable, murderous quackery;" contemplate this sad spectacle, and then ask yourselves, if humanity, if the narrow ties of friendship even, does not demand that such a system should no longer be tolerated in community. Here is a broad field for the philanthropist, his opposers are neither few nor weak, but a triumph shall await his labors, so sure as error must quail before the genial influence of science and truth. A.

Still Another!

A statement has been put extensively into circulation, which the writer has considered, from the first, to be a base and malignant falsehood. But yet, not having the facts in his possession, he has been prevented from giving the true version of the affair. Within a few days past, having occasion to visit, professionally, the town where the transactions occurred, measures were taken to obtain the facts. It is now proposed to lay them before our readers.

The statement, as now circulated, is as follows:—"A young gentleman in a neighboring town was somewhat unwell. The persons with whom he boarded, gave him several different botanic medicines.

Continuing about the same, and being anxious to resume his labors, a gentleman who was one of these pretended steam doctors, was called. He gave several emetics. But every one made him worse than before. He continued to sink rapidly until his friends became alarmed. Then an old school, mineral physician was called. After examining the patient, he said nothing could be done, and left. Then a steam doctor from another town was called. He declined doing any thing, as it would be of no use, and left.

Thus was the life of a valuable young man destroyed by one of these ignorant pretenders.

The writer has often been met by this story, as an evidence of the danger attending the botanic practice. It must be admitted that, if the above statement was correct, a strong argument might be brought against the practice. Let us look to that point.

The facts, as related to us by one who saw the deceased, nearly all of the time he was unwell, are as follows :—"The person *was* "somewhat unwell." "The family *did* give a few simple botanic medicines." An individual who has administered much botanic medicine, "gave one or more emetics." But mark : he seemed to rather *improve* slowly *after them.* After taking these emetics, a *person called to see him.* Immediately after this person left, *an old school physician visited him.* He was told by the patient that he did not wish any medicine. The physician told him he could leave him something that would bring him right. After some time, he concluded to take it, *if there was no calomel* in it. The promise was given him that there should be none. But it was given, *and it was broken*, as it has been many and many a time. From the time he began taking the poison, he began to sink very rapidly. At length, discovering the cheat, he refused to take any more. Not only so, but his confidence in his own sister was so entirely destroyed, that he would take nothing from her, saying that they were cheating him out of his life—they were poisoning him to death ! He continued to sink constantly from the time he first took the mineral medicine (?) until he died. When he took the first dose of poison, he was able to, and did walk from the bed to the shelf, and prepared it himself."

The above are the ascertained facts in the matter. Any one by calling at the office of the writer, may learn the names of all the parties, and many other circumstances not published.

The question may now with propriety be put the reader : "Which mode of practice, if either, killed the patient ?" It was the opinion of the deceased that poison was killing him—it is the opinion of his friends who saw its operations. Can there be any doubt in the minds of any candid person which practice had the best effect ?

The question is here suggested : if the mineral practice is the true practice, why do its advocates so constantly endeavor to support it by such gross, palpable falsehoods ? W.

To make hard water soft, add to one bucket of water warmed, one ounce of carbonate of soda.

The specific action of cayenne is evidently in perfect harmony with the operations of the living power, that is, when the action is too low, cayenne will raise it; when congested, it will extend its influence through the nerves of the circulation, till that action is equalized. Therefore, whether cayenne find the system or any organ of it, too much relaxed or contracted, its power to excite the living principle, and, of course organic action, is adapted to bring the living organ from either extreme to a healthy state. The stimulas of cayenne then, in a morbid condition of the body or any part of it, aided by the mechanical structure of valves, is calculated to push all the circulating materials forward through their destined course. If applied to a relaxed stomach that is full of fluids, it produces vomiting; if to the bowels, in the same condition, dejections; if to the skin, when the system is full of fluids, perspiration; and, lastly, (which comes more particularly under our present consideration,) if given to the stomach, (between which and the uterus there is an intimate nervous connexion,) at the time when that organ is disposed, but unable, through weakness, to expel its burden, and also, if rubbed lightly on the abdomen, it will wonderfully aid in facilitating parturition. There is, on this very account, no one article in the materia medica, so universally applicable in all cases of disease, as cayenne. I can conceive of but two states of the living body, in which its internal use is injudicious; one is when the skin alone is obstructed and a consequent fever pervades the whole internal man, (rather a rare case, and when it occurs, to be cured by a plenty of bland fluids and steam,) and the other is, when the patient is, in all respects, in perfect health, when its use would make him wear out his system too fast. Cayenne is not directly injurious like brandy and other poison stimulants, because, first, it does not suddenly raise the action to an excessive degree, and then let it as suddenly sink under consequent exhaustion. It continues the irritation for a great length of time, which so recruits the debilitated organs as to enable them to retain their power and sensibility after the cause which arouses them to action, is discharged from the system. 2d. It never destroys, as do opium, nitre, digitalis, mercury, &c., the power, capability or fitness of the organs for vital action, but rather renders them more susceptible to that action. It is uniformly, *universally* true, that the more opium, nitre, or mercury you give a patient, the less vitality there will be in his physical organs; till paralysis, apoplexy or anasarca, &c., close the scene: and it is equally true, that the longer you give a patient cayenne, the better effect it has upon him, and the less he needs, till he gets entirely well and needs it no longer.

If cayenne be introduced rapidly into the system, it will produce momentary pain, by relaxing the stomach before other parts relax; but if gradually introduced and the outlets of the system be kept free, little inconvenience can be produced by giving it even in very

large quantities. But for its extremely pungent and, to some, especially infants, very disagreeable taste, and also the impossibility of always getting enough of it in its purity, we might safely rest satisfied with it in all cases where a natural stimulant is required. Various other articles, however, as ginger, xanthoxylum, snake root, &c., may be used as substitutes when pure cayenne cannot be had or when its taste is peculiarly disagreeable.

Cayenne, then, should enter into the composition of all those articles which are intended to excite the system or any organ of it, to a natural action. "Why then," says an objector, "if cayenne always stimulates the system in the same way, do you prescribe it both to prevent abortion and to promote parturition?" I answer again, cayenne always stimulates the living organs to act in harmony with the living intention. Now it happens that abortion is threatened by accidental contractions of the uterus (by cold, fright, &c., or by a partial disengagement of the placenta occasioned by excessive labor, walking, fatigue, &c.,) during a period when the natural disposition of that organ is to expand to accommodate the growing fœtus; whereas, in parturition, that expansion, having been carried to the utmost extent of the natural law, the disposition of the organ now is to contract and expel the full grown fœtus. If then, cayenne aids the intentions of nature, it must of necessity, both prevent abortion, by removing the cold or obstructing fluids and allaying the irritation caused by fright, &c., and promote parturition by enabling the uterus to detach itself from the placenta, and expel from its cavity, that which, like ripe fruit, has no longer any need of nourishment from the parent stock.—*Curtis' Obstetrics.*

Milk for the People.

There exists on Long Island, near Brooklyn, several *Manufactories* of Milk—the process of which should be known. One of these *dairies* covers a space of six hundred feet front by three hundred feet deep, carefully fenced in, so as to be as private as possible, (the business of the people being to drink the milk, not to know how it is made,) in which enclosure four hundred cows are kept the whole year round. These cows are fed on the refuse slop of the whisky distilleries, and it is given to them *warm*. Each barrel costs six cents; but being adulterated with water and cheap feed, brings the price still less. Such is the fondness of the cows for this vile compound, that, after having been fed upon it a week or more, their appetites become so depraved that they will take no other food. The result is that their milk-producing organs are stimulated to a wonderful degree; they yield enormously, but soon become diseased; their gums ulcerate, their teeth drop out, and their breath becomes fœtid. Though thus diseased, they do not fall away in flesh, but on the contrary, puff up and bloat to an appearance of great fatness; their joints become stiff, so that they cannot lie down, and they rarely or never come out alive. Bas as

this is, the milk is afterwards mixed with molasses, water and whiting, and then sold to the people of New York for pure milk. Any one may observe the thirty-six cans that carry it round every morning. It is of course very injurious to children, who use it in much greater quantities than adults. Some idea may be formed of the profit made by computing one barrel of slop to a cow, costing sixpence, and the milk produced being eighty cents! These facts can be vouched for, almost incredible as they appear.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Mesmerism.—A writer in the Boston Courier observes upon this subject:

"Let me recommend those who are influenced by what the world thinks, to look at the present position of mesmerism in Europe. In England, it numbers many learned and honored advocates. On the continent it is an established faith in many countries. It has hospitals under its control. It has had a professorship at Berlin. In France, the land of science of the nineteenth century, the great Academy have reversed their former decision against, and several of the first philosophers of the nation and age have announced their belief, and are now investigating it. Under several Governments the practice of the science has been confined by law to physicians, on account of the greatness of the power, and the Pope and Grand Inquisitor of Rome have recently denounced it for the same reason."

Death of a Child through Medicine taken by the Mother.

An inquest was held on Thursday, by William Carter, Esq., at the Mason's Arms, East Lane, Walworth, relative to the death of Sarah Elizabeth Browfield, aged ten weeks, daughter of a brushmaker. Mary Ann Browfield stated, that she lived in a travelling show, at present remaining at Pleasant Row, East Street, Newington. On Thursday, the 21st ult., witness was unwell from her recent confinement, She therefore proceeded to the residence of Dr. Hughs, of Guy's Hospital, who gave her a prescription, which she took to Mr. Wade, chemist, of East Street, to make up, promising to call again. Witness returned, and asked Mr. Wade for a pennyworth of anti bilious pills, when he gave her four in a piece of paper. Witness took two of them the same night. On the following day, she told her husband the pain had shifted from her stomach to her head, making her mouth feel as if she had swallowed scalding water. Her tongue was much swollen, and the whole of her teeth loose. Witness at first thought it an attack of toothache, but she grew much worse, and water ran out of her mouth of a very offensive and nauseous character. Witness then said to her husband, "If you don't take me to Mr. Hughs, I shall go mad."—He accordingly placed her on a cart, and drove her to that gentle-

man, who informed witness that her state had arisen from the pills she had taken, which had thrown her into a state of great salivation. Meantime she continued to suckle the deceased; but two days afterward, she found the child, who was previously in good health, also affected. Witness finding the child getting worse, sent for Mr. Hewett. But all efforts on his part to save the deceased, were unavailing—and she died on Saturday. Other evidence being taken, the coroner summed up, and the jury, after a brief consultation, returned the subjoined verdict—"That the deceased died from the effects of mercury, imbibed through the mother's milk, she having been in a state of salivation by taking two anti-bilious pills, containing *not quite two grains* of mercury. At the same time, WE *do not find blame attributed to any person.*"

[Glaswow Saturday Post, of Jan. 23, 1847.

"IS THERE NO END TO HUMAN CALAMITY?—The degree of M. D. was yesterday conferred on fifty-three students at the Medical College. The degrees were bestowed by Judge Este, and the valedictory address was delivered by the Dean of the faculty, Dr. Harrison.

"The address was an excellent one, but would have been made better by the addition of the concluding sentence of the address of the Dean of the Louisville College, 'In conclusion, gentlemen, I advise you all to go where you are not known!'"

"The commencement of the Cleveland Medical College took place on the 24th of February. The Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon fifty-two graduates. This Institution and its Professors are spoken of in the highest terms of praise."—*Herald.*

Here are "one hundred and five more licenses to kill;" and, if the declaration of Professor Chapman be true, that each young man must kill his twenty patients before he learns to cure them, *two* thousand victims may now prepare their winding sheets, and be ready to be offered on the altars of these colleges. The other medical colleges in the Union have doubtless graduated at least twelve hundred more. These multiplied by twenty make twenty-four thousands *more* victims to the lancet, calomel, opium & Co. for the current year—equal to all that are slain by intemperance in drinking alcohol.—*Botanico-Medical Recorder.*

—PEIRCE ACADEMY,—

—MIDDLEBORO,' MASS.—

WILL commence its Spring Session of 16 weeks, **MONDAY, March 8,** under the charge of Mr. John W. P. JENKS, A. M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M PARKER, Preceptress.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time during the term, but not for a period of less than 8 weeks.

Lectures in all the Physical Sciences, with the aid of *Complete Apparatus.*

Tuition and Board as heretofore. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. f15

The New England Health Insurance Company.

INCORPORATED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF CONN., IN MAY 1846.

Capital, 200,000 Dollars.

THIS Institution is novel in its character, but humane and benevolent in its object, and in all its provisions is calculated to alleviate the wants and distress of all who are entitled to share in its beneficent operations. By the provisions of the charter, those who are insured, are entitled to a benefit of FOUR DOLLARS per week whenever they are incapacitated by accident or disease from pursuing their ordinary occupation. The company will insure males now in good health, between the ages of fifteen and seventy years, for the small premium of FIVE DOLLARS per annum, without the insured being required to give any premium note, or being subject to any assessment or any further expense, except twenty five cents for the expense of forwarding the application to Norwich, and obtaining the policy.

The Institution is conducted on the mutual principle, the insured being entitled to a full share of the surplus earnings of the company.

The capital has been paid in and invested according to the requisitions of the charter, and the company, believing it an Institution that must commend itself to the favorable consideration of every candid person, now respectfully solicit applications for policies. For further particulars enquire of T. W. WOOD.

Middleborough, April 1, 1847.

MEDICAL HERBARIUM,

NO. 3 DURFEE'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSE.

THE Subscriber, having secured the services of a person well acquainted with the preparation and sale of Medicines used in the Botanic Practice, is now much better prepared to supply the increasing demand for genuine VEGETABLE MEDICINES, both simple and compound.

Composition Powders, Vegetable Bitters, Cough Balsam, Pulmonary Syrup, Alterative Syrup, (excellent for humors and Liver Complaint,) Plasters, Liniments, Pills, Cayenne, pure Ginger, Nervine, and all the medicines usually employed in the Botanic Practice, constantly on hand. Mesmeric and other prescriptions carefully attended to by an experienced person. J. M. ALDRICH, Botanic Physician.

Fall River, Mass., March 1, 1847.

STRAW SEWERS.

20 STRAW SEWERS wanted. Apply at J. Godfrey's Bonnet Manufactory, No. 7, Exchange Building, North Main street, Fall River. March 1

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS!

A VALUABLE collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronometer, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarseness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats.

Also, Syringes of all kinds. T. W. WOOD. feb15

JONES' ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS!

THESE Rods have now been tested for a number of years in almost every part of the country. It is a remarkable fact that not one building protected by them, has ever been injured by lightning. For further information, apply to

Middleborough, April 1, 1847. T. W. WOOD.

Also—For sale every article in the Botanic *Materia Medica*. Apply as above.

COMPOUND SARSAPARILLA, or ALTERATIVE SYRUP.

THIS medicine is most excellent for humors, for Salt Rheum in its various forms; for weakened digestive organs, as well as for Spring complaints. Prepared *wholly* from vegetables, and for sale at the Botanico-Medical Office.

Middleborough, March 1, 1847.

MEDICAL ENQUIRER.

EDITED BY J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M., BOTANIC PHYSICIANS.

VOL. I. FALL RIVER & MIDDLEBORO', MAY 1, 1847. NO. 24.

To our Readers.

This No. terminates the 1st volume of the Enquirer. Its patronage, though not sufficient to meet the expense of publication, has realized our fullest expectations, and we hope that the little sheet has not been entirely unprofitable to those who have perused it. We have endeavored to give some reason for the faith that is in us—to show the destructive tendency of the Allopathic practice—mainly by confessions from its own authors,—and to illustrate the principles and practice of the Reformed System. We should be happy to continue the paper through another volume, but there are causes which prevent our doing so. We made no effort at the commencement, with an idea of giving it a permanent character; and though the encouragement we have met with might be an inducement at continuance, the new Post Office law is a great barrier to the success of local publications. These reasons mainly have induced us to discontinue its publication for the present.

We hope our subscribers will not fail to take a Botanic Periodical.—There are several published, which will prove highly interesting and instructive to the friends of Medical reform. The N. E. Bot. Med. and Sur. Journal, published at Worcester, is the organ of the N. E. Botanic College, and will fairly represent the cause in this part of the country. It should be in the hands of every Botanic in the State. We have a work to do in securing a Charter for the College, and it must be done. The circulation of the Journal is important in this respect, to say nothing of the advantage it will be to its subscribers personally. The Bot. Med. Recorder, at Cincinnati, the oldest Botanic Periodical in the country, The Poughkeepsie Thomsonian, and others are valuable publications. The Water Cure Journal, though professing not much faith in any medicine but pure water, is nevertheless an interesting and instructive periodical. Its physiological and dietectical department as applied to the preservation of health is valuable, and we are by no means averse to much of its practical part, though we regard cold water as only one of the important agents in the removal of disease.

We should be happy to forward subscriptions for any of the above named publications. A.

Postage.

The public, quite generally, it is presumed, have learned practically, and personally, the fact, that the postage laws have undergone another

change. "Unstable legislation is a great evil." In no instance is this maxim more palpably true, than in the laws regulating the amounts of postage. Let us look at the matter a little.

The Government enters into contract with the citizens, to transport certain articles for the said citizens, for a small amount, to certain distances. But in addition, they agree to convey the same articles less distances, gratuitously.

The hundreds of mechanics and artizans throughout the country, are anxious to obtain all the information in their power. Heretofore they were unable to subscribe for such periodicals as they desired, because of the expense. Government comes forward, with the appearance of benefitting this class, by removing, partially, the expense. Their publications, a portion of them at least, may be received without postage.

The opportunity is readily embraced—the laborer sits down at the close of the day—peruses his paper and congratulates himself upon the liberality of his government. But how soon is the prospect changed.—Scarcely twelve months have passed away, ere he is again taxed as much and more than before. Led on by the appearance of friendship, he is induced to increase the number of his subscriptions, and the result of the matter is, that instead of having his burdens lightened, they are, in reality, rendered the more severe.

There are in the United States hundreds of persons, subscribers, that would not have become such, had the government not gave them to suppose they should be free from all postage thereon. So that the department has actually made quite a profitable speculation of the *free-of-postage-system.*

We of course, have nothing to do with the political phase of the question; (indeed we do not know if there be any,) but we think, and we say it freely, that the new law is very illiberal and unjust in its operations. Many of the country papers will be completely destroyed by it while the city papers will monopolize the whole publishing business.

W.

"Murder! Murder!!"

Our readers will recollect an article in No. 20, March 1, which had the same heading as this. Some more facts having come to the writer's knowledge, he offers them to the readers.

We quote from the article:

"A little child in this town was sick. The physician was called. In process of time, the child was a second time unwell. Some kind friends advised the mother to give it some composition. The composition was given! *The child was* KILLED by it!! The composition was given—*and now the child is in the grave yard!*"

Such was the statement put forth by one of the old school physicians

in this town. Reader! would you suppose that the largest proportion of the composition given to that child by that mother was given in accordance *with the orders of the physician* who has circulated the report alluded to above? Such is the fact. The very person who has said that the child was killed by composition, was the one to order it given. If it were not impertinent, the question might be asked: If the composition killed the child—and the physician ordered the mother to give it—who killed the child, the mother or the PHYSICIAN?

It is the opinion of those seeing the child constantly, that *calomel* was the cause of its death; inasmuch as it was constantly dosed therewith, and the physician himself admitted "that it had been brought up on calomel."

Again may the question be asked: If the old school practice is founded upon truth, why do its most able supporters resort to such gross, palpable falsehoods, so easily detected, in order to sustain its popularity? W.

REMOVAL.

THE Subscriber has removed his Office to his residence, corner of Main and Franklin sts., up stairs. Entrance to the office on Franklin st.

Orders may be left at the Medical Herbarium, opposite the Mount Hope House.

May 1, 1847. J. M. ALDRICH, Botanic Physician.

COMPOUND SARSAPARILLA, or ALTERATIVE SYRUP.

THIS medicine is most excellent for humors, for Salt Rheum in its various forms; for weakened digestive organs, as well as for Spring complaints. Prepared *wholly* from vegetables, and for sale at the Botanico-Medical Office.

Middleborough, March 1, 1847.

JONES' ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS!

THESE Rods have now been tested for a number of years in almost every part of the country. It is a remarkable fact that not one building protected by them, has ever been injured by lightning. For further information, apply to

Middleborough, April 1, 1847. T. W. WOOD.

Also—For sale every article in the Botanic *Materia Medica*. Apply as above.

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS!

A VALUABLE collection of apparatus, containing among other articles: an Electrical Machine and accompaniments—Galvanic Battery, new—Air Pump, nearly new—Fountain *in Vacuo*, new—Bell Glasses—for sale much less than can be purchased elsewhere. Also, a Metronometer, a most excellent instrument. Also, a case of Mathematical Instruments.

The above may be seen by calling at the Botanico-Medical Office, Middleborough. Also at the same place may be obtained Dr. Clark's Compound Medicated Cough Candy, a most excellent article for coughs and hoarseness. Also, Composition powders, an article perhaps unexcelled for colds and sore throats.

Also, Syringes of all kinds. T. W. WOOD. feb15

—PEIRCE ACADEMY,—

—MIDDLEBORO,' MASS.—

WILL commence its Spring Session of 16 weeks, **MONDAY, March 8,** under the charge of Mr. John W. P. JENKS, A. M., Preceptor, and Miss L. M PARKER, Preceptress.

☞ Pupils admitted at any time during the term, but not for a period of less than 3 weeks.

Lectures in all the Physical Sciences, with the aid of *Complete Apparatus*.

Tuition and Board as heretofore. JAMES A. LEONARD, Sec'y. f15

STRAW SEWERS.

20 STRAW SEWERS wanted. Apply at J. Godfrey's Bonnet Manufactory, No. 7, Exchange Building, North Main street, Fall River. March 1

The New England Health Insurance Company.

INCORPORATED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF CONN., IN MAY 1846.

Capital, 200,000 Dollars.

THIS Institution is novel in its character, but humane and benevolent in its object, and in all its provisions is calculated to alleviate the wants and distress of all who are entitled to share in its beneficent operations. By the provisions of the charter, those who are insured, are entitled to a benefit of FOUR DOLLARS per week whenever they are incapacitated by accident or disease from pursuing their ordinary occupation. The company will insure males now in good health, between the ages of fifteen and seventy years, for the small premium of FIVE DOLLARS per annum, without the insured being required to give any premium note, or being subject to any assessment or any further expense, except twenty five cents for the expense of forwarding the application to Norwich, and obtaining the policy.

The Institution is conducted on the mutual principle, the insured being entitled to a full share of the surplus earnings of the company.

The capital has been paid in and invested according to the requisitions of the charter, and the company, believing it an Institution that must commend itself to the favorable consideration of every candid person, now respectfully solicit applications for policies. For further particulars enquire of T. W. WOOD

Middleborough, April 1, 1847.

Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory.

No. 18, *Central st., Boston, Ms.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also,—Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners and others, with medicines of *superior quality;* at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country promptly and faithfully attended to. B. OSGOOD WILSON,

Boston, May 15, 1846. G. CARLOS WILSON.

ALMY & MILNE,

PLAIN AND FANCY JOB PRINTERS.

No. 5, Bedford Street, Fall River,

Respectfully inform the citizens of Middleborough, that they have a large assortment of fashionable Type, Borders, &c., for Printing

PAMPHLETS,	**RECEIPTS,**	**CARDS,**
HANDBILLS,	**BLANKS,**	**CIRCULARS,**
SHOP BILLS,	**CHECKS,**	**LABELS,**

And every other article in the line of PRINTING, either for Mercantile or ordinary business purposes.

Orders left with Dr. T. W. W[illegible] Middleboro', will meet with prompt attention.

COUNTWAY LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
RV
1
M463

RARE BOOKS DEPARTMENT